MY DEAR SON

Letters from Anna G. Davis

to

Joshua H. Davis, Jr.

1872 - 1903

Joshua Hinckley Davis, Jr.
March 2, 1849 - December 25, 1942

ODE TO THE TYPOGRAPHICAL ERROR

The typographical error
Is a slippery thing and sly.
You can hunt until you're dizzy
But somehow it will get by,
'Til the pages are off the Xerox,
It is strange how still it keeps.
It shrinks down in the corner,
And it never stirs or peeps.

That typographical error,
Too small for human eyes,
'Til the ink is on the paper
When it grows to mountain size.
The writer stares with horror,
Then she grabs her hair and groans.
Afterward she drops her head
Upon her hand and moans.

Almost all the pages may be
Clean as clean can be.
But the typographical error
Is the only thing you see.

This is a project that begged to be redone. Almost 20 years ago I transcribed these letters and distributed them to my family. I used the latest technology - an IBM Selectric II typewriter and a free printing job from a friend. I was impressed that: (a) the letters survived, (b) I had access to them, and (c) I could be a big shot and share some family history. Most impressive was the sheer labor I expended retyping them.

I had never seen a photograph of Anna, and the names she mentioned in these letters meant nothing to me. I was amused how she worried about a 35+-year-old son who had fled the family nest. I laughed at the "weather reports" and "whose turn it was to write." Today, with an adult child who just left our nest and several years of heavy-duty genealogical study, I'm forced to do an about-face.

To use her own terminology, my great-grandmother, Anna Gross Lombard Davis, was a "singular" woman. I wish I had known her.

If I had to choose one word to describe her, I'd opt for "gentle." Even her criticisms are gentle: chiding Joshua about his dilatory writing habits; acquiescing to her husband's strong personality; remarking that her daughter Emily (an artist) could not be counted on to help much around the house; reminding Joshua more than once she never saw the inside of the house he was building in Dover, Minnesota, although she made the long trip there to visit him. (I think her feelings were deeply hurt by the oversight.) She was gently pragmatic about her advancing years and the limited time she had to see "all of her family in one place" again. Her gentleness and her profound love of family make for an indomitable combination.

We need to identify the main characters found in these letters, and we'll start with Anna and Joshua Davis's own children.

1. **Anna Maria Davis ("Annie")**
March 30, 1843 - February, 1921

Annie is one of the three daughters who never married. She spent her entire life in her parents' household and took over much of the running of the household as her parents aged. I cannot identify a source of income for her, but she deposited her own money in her brother's bank and did some traveling. Annie made extended trips to Minnesota to be with Mary and Joshua when their babies were born.

2. **Mary Eleanor Davis Dyar**
March 18, 1845 - August 24, 1931

We are well acquainted with Mary through her journals. Mary graduated from normal school and taught in Somerville until her marriage to **Emerson** Dyar in 1875. She and Emerson left immediately for Dover, Minnesota. Later they moved to Winona, Minnesota. Mary and Emerson were the parents of:

1.	**Annie Lombard Dyar**	b. October 11, 1877
2.	**Louis Aggasiz Dyar**	b. April 3, 1879
3.	**Alice Emma Dyar**	b. ca. 1882
4.	**Ralph Emerson Dyar**	b. January 4, 1884
5.	**Gladys Eleanor Dyar**	b. February 8, 1886

3. **Solomon Davis**

December 5, 1846 - May 28, 1928

Solomon married Joanna **"Josie"** Allen. Solomon and Joshua, Jr. were close. For most of his life, Solomon was in the men's clothing business and spent many years traveling. You will read about numerous "trips" Solomon made. Solomon was also an asthma and hay fever sufferer. This legacy passed down to the present and succeeding generations. During the course of these letters, Solomon and Josie will move from Somerville MA to New Haven, CT. Reading, MA will be their final home. Solomon and Josie had three children, two of whom lived to adulthood.

1. **Caroline Means Davis -** b. May 30, 1873
2. **Edward Howard Davis -** b. Feb. 8, 1875 d. Sept. 20, 1875
3. **Helen Howard Davis -** b. July 21, 1876

Caroline graduated from Wellesley College in 1897; Helen graduated from Wellesley in 1899. Caroline taught school for several years. Neither she nor Helen married, and they lived at home until their parents' deaths. They later purchased their own home in Reading.

4. **Joshua Hinckley Davis, Jr.**

March 2, 1849 - December 25, 1942

Joshua was my grandfather who died three years before I was born. Although his father was the superintendent of schools in Somerville for many years, Joshua did not graduate from high school. Neither did his brothers. Like them, he attended for two years and then entered the business world. I think this is an incredible irony, in view of his father's profession. His sisters graduated from high school, one attended art school, and one graduated from normal school. My opinion is that his father failed in almost every business venture he tried or invested in, and he did not want his sons to do likewise. All three sons were successful businessmen.

Until now, I considered Joshua a compliant, quiet person; but upon re-reading these letters, I detected a restless spirit. Anna made many references to Joshua's horses. Was this a child who always wanted a horse and couldn't have one? In 1872 he made a trip to Minnesota. Why? Did he connect there with Emerson Dyar, his second cousin who would marry his sister Mary? In 1878 he tried farming. He and Solomon had a farm together in Sandwich, MA. Was farming something he "had to get out of his system." He did not marry until he was 36. Were there failed romances and a broken heart to mend during his young manhood?

Joshua married **Cora** Cecilia Hendrick (sometimes spelled "Hendricks") in Minnesota in 1886. They had two children.

1. **Eleanor Davis -** b. May 14, 1891
2. **Kenneth Hendrick Davis** (my father) b. April 21, 1897

5. **Emily Small Davis**
June 27, 1851 - June 24, 1932

Emily was an artist. She attended art school and had a studio in the Myrtle Street house. By happenstance, luck and the grace of God I have these treasures painted by Emily: an oil portrait of my great-grandfather Joshua H. Davis, Sr.; an oil of the Davis family homestead on Truro, Cape Cod (built in 1803); a water color of chrysanthemums; an oil portrait of my father (from a photograph); an oil of a little girl; and a china box. Emily never married and lived in the Myrtle Street home of her parents all her life.

6. **Sarah Elizabeth Gross Davis**
October 27, 1853 - September 7, 1936

Sarah is an almost invisible member of this family. She seemed to be away visiting people much of the time. Like Annie and Emily, she never married. Sarah and Emily were the last members of the family who lived until the end of their days in the Myrtle Street home.

7. **Thomas Lombard Davis**
December 28, 1856 - January 15, 1929

Thomas was the baby of the family and the only child born in Somerville, not Truro. The 1884 Somerville Directory lists his occupation as "burlaps" with a Boston business address and as a boarder at his parents' home on Myrtle Street in Somerville. He traveled extensively and made at least two European trips before his marriage. Thomas married Martha **("Mattie")** . Tenney in 1887, and they had three sons.

1.	**Tenney Lombard Davis**	b. Janury 7, 1890
2.	**Robert Tenney Davis**	b. February 24, 1892
3.	**Philip Sidney Davis**	b. June 2, 1895

We need to push the ancestry back one more generation, and an abbreviated family tree will help identify the people Anna named in her letters. For the most part, the visitors are nieces and nephews of Anna and Joshua, Sr. and cousins to the seven Davis offspring. The relatives below are from the **Davis** side of the family. The names in **bold** type will show up in the letters.

Ebenezer Lombard & Azubah Hinckley Davis had seven children:

1. Dinah Davis
2. Solomon Davis
3. Ebenezer Davis
4. Betsey Davis
5. Benjamin Davis
6. Azubah Davis
7. Joshua Hinckley Davis, Sr.

1. Dinah married Benjamin Dyer. Among their children were:

    1. **Elizabeth** who married **Rev. Edward Noble ("Mr. and Mrs. Noble")**. Among their children were:
        1. **George Noble**
        2. **Francis ("Fanny") Noble**
        3. **Edith Noble**

    2. Azubah who married Leonard Lombard. Their daughter was:
        1. **Mary Lombard**

    3. **Ebenezer ("Eben.")** who married **Sarah** Rich. Their children were:
        1. **Emily**
        2. **Mabel**

2. Solomon married but had no children.

3. **Ebenezer ("Uncle Ebenezer")** married **Maria ("Aunt Maria")** Harding. Among their children were:
    1. **Dorcas** who married **Michael Snow**
    2. **Clarina ("Clara")** who married Silas Nickerson

4. Betsey married Isaac Gross. Among their children was:
    1. **Jaazaniah** who had a granddaughter named
        1. **Sarah "Sadie" Hemenway**

5. Benjamin married Betsey Stevens. Their sons were:
    1. **Nathaniel Jordan Knight Davis ("Nathaniel")**
    2. **Levi Franklin Stevens Davis ("Levi")**

6. **Azubah ("Aunt Azubah")** married Thomas Paine. Among their children were:
    1. **Samuel** who married Mary
    2. **Elizabeth ("Lizzie")**

Now we must go back another generation to identify the most frequently mentioned relative/neighbor, **"Mrs. Knight."** Mrs. Knight is a first cousin to Joshua, Sr.

Our original Davis ancestors were Benjamin & Betsey Rowe Davis. They had four children:

1. Benjamin Davis, 2nd
2. James Webb Davis
3. **Ebenezer Lombard Davis (our direct ancestor)**
4. Betsey Davis Myrick

Among James Webb Davis's children was:

Sarah Davis ("Mrs. Knight") who married Dr. Nathaniel Jordan Knight. Their children were:

1. Catherine Elizabeth **("Kate")**
2. Sarah Ann Margaret **("Annie")**

Mrs. Knight lived directly across the street from the Davises with her daughters and possibly two granddaughters. Annie never married, and Kate's marital status and the legitimacy of her daughters is open to question. Kate married a Benjamin Freeman and is listed as "Mrs. Catherine Freeman" who boarded at her mother's home in the *1884 Somerville Directory*. She is buried in the Knight family lot, sans husband. Mrs. Knight's obituary mentions two granddaughters and two great-grandaughters. One of Kate's daughters was **Anna Josephine ("Josie")** who married Manuel Lombard. Kate was omitted from JHD's *Book of Family History*, and JHD's history convolutes her existence into a confusing state. This generally happened when an illegitimate birth took place in the family.

On Anna's side of the family only a few people visit. Anna had two older sisters:

1. Sally married Thomas Kenney. One of their two daughters was:
   1. **Mary Kenney**

2. Betsey **("Aunt Betsey")** who was married to her third husband Ephraim Cook **("Mr. Cook")** at the time of these letters.

HAPPY READING!

Susan Davis Hanson
W1223 Lois St.
PO Box 187
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Davis Adin, real estate (302 Washington, B.), house 3 Jenny Lind avenue
Davis Alva W., salesman, boards 8 Morrison
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Davis Belle A., music teacher, boards 10 Webster avenue
~~Davis Bradford F., house 12 Dover, W. S.~~
Davis Ceylon S., carriage-maker, house 3 Florence
Davis Charles, laborer, house r. Linwood, n. Washington
Davis Charles, salesman (83 Milk, B.), h. 148 Broadway
Davis Charles C., salesman (22 Federal, B.), house 8 Grand View avenue
Davis Charles E., clerk (361 Washington, B.), house Vinal avenue, near Pleasant avenue
Davis Charles E., jeweller (323 Washington, B.), boards 46 Houghton
Davis Charles E., wood-worker, house 142 Washington
Davis Charles F. (Winter Hill Ice Co.), Jaques, house at Medford
Davis Charles H., express messenger B. & P. R. R., h. 37 Mt. Pleasant
Davis Charles I., teamster (85 Milk, B.), h. 4 Glen
Davis Charles M., salesman (518 Wash., B.), house 22 Flint
Davis Ebenezer, marine inspector (17 Merchants' Exchange, 53 State, B.), h. 8 Mt. Vernon
Davis Edward C., prop. Boston Times (20 Hawley, B.), boards 7 Brook
Davis Edward E., machinist, house 49 Webster
Davis Elbridge G., milkman, house Jaques [Webster av.
Davis Erskine E., produce (96½ Blackstone, B.), h. 10
Davis E. Lester, burlaps, etc. (20 Federal, B.), house 14 Union
Davis Frank E., student, boards J. W. Davis', Main
Davis Frank N., printer (26½ Exchange, B.), house 1 Florence [near Benedict
Davis Fred F., salesman (65 Clinton, B.), house Mystic,
Davis Frederic, mason, house 247 Washington
Davis Frederic L., photographer (493 Washington, B.), house West Chestnut court
Davis George W., cooper, house Linwood, near Poplar
Davis George S., barrel collector (Cambridge), boards 21 Auburn avenue
Davis Hobart C., clerk, boards C. E. Davis', Vinal avenue
Davis Howard P., student, boards P. Davis', Elm, West Somerville
Davis James W., special agent U. S. Treas. (P. O. building, Devonshire, B.), house Main, next to Medford line
Davis Jennie L. Mrs., house 60 Dover, West Somerville
Davis John, at Bleachery, house Garden court
Davis John Mrs., house 20 Bonair
Davis Joseph, brick-manufacturer (Medford), house 22 Appleton, West Somerville [Morrison
Davis Joseph, grocer, Holland, near Irving, house 8
Davis Joseph A., engineer, boards 8 Morrison
Davis Joshua H., superintendent of schools, house 15 Myrtle [boards 15 Myrtle
Davis Joshua H. Jr., bookkeeper (62 F. H. market, B.),
Davis Levi F. S., metals and paper stock (277 Commercial, B.), house 113 Pearl

DAVIS LEWIS B., roofer (Cambridge, corner Crescent avenue, Charlestown), house 13 Washington [Washington, house do.
Davis Martha A., widow of Charles A., dressmaker, 36
Davis Milton G., pattern-maker (36 Charlestown, B.), house 24 Morrison
Davis Nathan J., physician, 75 Pearl, house do.
Davis Nathaniel J. K., cashier (31 Otis, B.), house 13 Mt. Vernon [ley, B.), house 94 Pearl
Davis Oliver J., spruce-piling (464 Federal and 35 Haw-
Davis Person, flour and grain (24 Canal, B.), house Elm,
Davis Phineas J., bookkeeper (3 Haymarket square, B.), boards 149 Pearl
Davis Richard, stationer (17 Water, B.), house Jenny Lind avenue
Davis Sarah Mrs., house 46 Houghton
Davis Solomon, salesman (72 Franklin, B.), house 12 Mills [Broadway
Davis Stark H., hardware (33 Sudbury, B.), house 150
Davis Sumner, barrel mnfr. (E. C.), house 21 Auburn avenue
Davis Thomas, rigger, house 3 Holt's avenue
Davis Thomas L., burlaps, etc. (49 Federal, B.), boards 15 Myrtle [avenue, corner Grove
Davis Walter A., collector (Court, B.), house Highland

Frederick Edward, cooper, house Linwood, n. Poplar
Fredriksen Peter J., cabinet-maker, house Washington, c. Hanson [do.
Freeman Benjamin F., photographer, 42 Broadway, house
Freeman Catherine E. Mrs., boards 16 Myrtle
Freeman Daniel A., salesman (31 Bedford, B.), boards L. F. Walker's, Highland avenue
Freeman Edward L., provisions, house 7 Autumn
Freeman Henry H., travelling salesman, house 34 Elm
Freeman Herbert H., wood engraver (B.), bds. W. W. Freeman's, Claremon
Freeman John K., salesman (686 Washington, B.), bds. C. A. McPhail's, Claremon [69 Oak
Freeman Sarah A., widow of Josephus, dressmaker, h.
Freeman William W., carpenter, h. Claremon, c. Mead
Freeman Zillah E. Miss, teacher (Cambridge), bds. L. F. Walker's, Highland avenue

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Grimes James H., book-keeper (116 Blackstone, B.), h. 66 Morrison
Grodzinski Thomas, peddler, house 4 Wyatt
Grogan Bernard, laborer, h. London, near Linwood
Grogan John, laborer, boards M. Grogan's, Fitchburg
Grogan Michael, laborer, house Fitchburg, n. Linwood
Gross Jaazaniah, provisions (64 F. H. market, B.), h. 124 Perkins
Gross Sylvanus S., fancy goods, etc., 45 Wash., h. do.
Groton B. Frank, drydock (464 Atlantic avenue, B.), h. Summer, near Central
Grover Edward I., attendant McLean Asylum, b. do.
Grover Horace N., fruit [41 S. Market, B.], h. 6 Oxford

Jackett Lawrence, engineer, house Fitchburg
Jaddie James, h. 2 Joy-st. place
Haddleton Oliver C., jeweler [548 Wash., B.], house Broadway, cor. Medford
Jaderbölets Anthouy, tailor, Warren av., near Union sq.
Jadley Alvah A., carpenter, h. 145 Elm, n. Willow av.
Hadley Benjamin, house 103 Washington
Hadley Charles P., teamster [38 South Market, B.], h. Thorpe place
Jadley Fred O., carpenter, boards 145 Elm
Hadley George W., house 139 Perkins
Hadley Samuel D., music teacher, h. 35 Everett av.
Hadley Samuel H. O., music teacher, h. 14 Myrtle
Jadley Walter M., ~~boarding stable, 3 Broadway, and~~ coal [561 Main, Chas'n], ~~boards 139 Perkins~~
Hadwen Isaac R., baggage express[B. & P. R. R. B.], house 65 Marshall
Jafford John, policeman, h. Allen, n. Somerville av.
Hagan Bernard, tool mounter [99 Blackstone, B.] house foot Woodbine near L. R. R.
Hagan Daniel, glass blower Union Glass Co., house 1 Union Glass Co. block

eeland Thomas, fireman Mystic Water works, Lawrence, h. at Medford
Knecland William B., clerk F. R. R., b. 1 Loring
ight Alvin W., teamster, house Mystic av., n. Austin
ight Elanor Miss, artist Davis sq., b. 52 Chester, W. S. [h. Lawrence, n. do.
Knight George H., asst. engineer Mystic Water Works.
ight George T., prof. Church History, Tufts College, b. Thomas J. Sawyer's, Professor's row [Wallace
Knight Isabella H., widow of George, h. Park ave., cor.
Knight Josiah, N. E. Pulverizing Sugar and Preserving Co., (98 and 102 Cross, B.), h. Belmont, n. Summer
ight J. Woodman, b. Josiah Knight's, Belmont
ight Nathaniel J. Mrs., h. 16 Myrtle
Knights Geo. S., asst. engineer Mystic Water Works, h. Lawrence, n. do.
owles Abbott L. (Knowles Bros.), grocers, 157 Perkins. house 44 Webster

Logan John, laborer, house 8 Murray
Logan William J., painter, house 2 Remick's court
gan William M., engineer, house Sacremento, near Somerville avenue [near Dane
Lohced William J., foreman (13 Bowker, B.), h. Skchan
Lomax Eleanor, widow of William, house Miller, corner Sacramento
max George H., foreman. machine shop Union Glass Co., Webster avenue, house Miller, c. Sacramento
Lombard Albert, milkman S. L. Cummings, Cutter avenue, boards do.
mbard Frank G., salesman (91 Franklin, B.), house 62 Mt. Vernon [Pearl
Lombard Henry F., salesman (52 Clinton, B.), bds. 114
Lombard Henry S., clothing (52 Clinton, B.), house 114 Pearl [do
mbard Julia Mrs., groceries. 73 Somerville avenue, h.
Lombard Lewis, house 3 Franklin place
Lombard Lewis (13 Sears building, B.), h. 62 Mt. Vernon
mbard Manuel H., salesman (52 Clinton, B.), boards 114 Pearl [do.
Lombard Moses W., photographer, 35 Summer, house 33
Lombard Oliver C., fish, (86 Commercial wharf, B.), h. 93 Mt. Vernon [Franklin
mbard Solomon T., printer (75 Milk, B.), house 41
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nbard Walter H., printer (21 Milk, B.), boards 9

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GENERAL VIEW FROM PROSPECT HILL TOWER, SOMERVILLE, MASS.

Somerville 1884

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MURRAY

VINEGAR WORKS

Somerville 1896

6

Somerville - 1884

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Somerville Today

pearl st, Somerville, MA 02149

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MY DEAR SON

Letters from Anna G. Davis

to

Joshua H. Davis, Jr.

1872 - 1903

Almost assuredly, Anna stayed with her Mother Elizabeth Gross Lombard Peterson. Her "vacation" in Truro probably involved more than relaxation for her.

In March of 1872, her step-father Thomas Peterson died. Her niece's child Lillie Peterson would die in November. The child may have been ill during Anna's visit.

Anna's sister-in-law Ruth Peterson was likely still in residence with three of her unmarried children.

Anna's oldest sister Sally Lombard Kenney was dead, and her next oldest sister Betsey Lombard Collins Cook Cook's life was more unsettled than Anna's.

It would naturally fall to Anna to stay with her mother to offer comfort, company, and assistance dealing with the aftermath of John's death and a "problem" multigenerational household.

At this writing, Joshua, Jr. is 23-years-old and quite a distance away from home. It is not known why he was in Minnesota, although he would one day make his home there. He may have made connections with his second cousin Emerson Dyar who was in that state; they would end up living near one another.

The "Rich celebration" was a big family reunion. The Rich Family Association exists to this day. We qualify for membership.

Thurs. July 4th, 1872

My Dear Son,

You will see by this that I am still in Truro. I came the day after you left, as I expected, which was three weeks ago yesterday.

I am anxious to hear from you again. I haven't got but one letter from you since you arrived at Minnesota. Perhaps you can't always get letters to the Office when you want to it is so far off for which I make due allowance, but I do want to hear from you so much, and especially to know how you are, and whether you feel any better than when you left home. You didn't say anything about it when you wrote before. I can't realize that you are so far away from home, and don't think that I have missed you so much as I should, had I been at home.

I had a letter from Annie Tuesday. She said Mary had been writing to you so I suppose you get all the news from home. There don't seem to be much news stirring here. The Rich celebration came off as anticipated on the 26th and 27th. I believe it passed off very well but there wasn't near as many there as they expected there would be. I want to get the Provincetown Advocate and send you, they say the whole account will be in that paper.

I am full as well contented here as I thought should be it is so lonesome here that I have hard work sometimes to keep from being homesick. I did want to go home before Sarah graduated, but they write the weather is so warm there, they think I had better stop down till the schools close, and then I expect father will come down as to go home with me. I suppose you would like to know whether my health is improved since I have been down here. I thought at one time I seemed to be improving quite fast, but I haven't felt quite so well lately. I hardly think the air down here agrees with me as well as the country air would. I am expecting to go with Mary to Gorham to spend a few weeks, after I return home.

It makes me feel real lonesome when I think of you being so far away from home and more especially when I think of your being out of health, but I do hope you will be benefitted by going and that you will come home with more fat on your cheeks than you had when you went away. Do write as often as you can (You don't know how I long to get letters from you.) and be sure and write how you are and how you like and all about it. I do hope you will find things pleasant and agreeable and enjoy yourself, while you are there.

With much love.

Your Affect. Mother A. G. Davis

Joshua H. Davis, Jr

Gorham Aug. 6th, 1872

My Dear Son,

Your letter to Mary reached here yesterday noon, and I was glad enough to hear from you and also to know that you are benefitted by your journey West.

And I am also convinced that you did not give up your business any too soon. I hardly know what would have been the consequence if you had remained there through the summer. I hope now by taking care of yourself you will regain your health.

I think my health is much better than it was when you left home. Father thinks I improved very much while I was at the Cape, and I think I feel still stronger than I did before I left home to come here. The air here is beautiful, but it had been rather cooler than I like since we have been here, especially the nights and mornings.

I suppose Mary gave you a description of things about here in her last letter. I am not as enthusiastic as Mary, but I still think the scenery here is grand and beautiful with the mountains all around us and the river so near, and yet I hardly like it, it seems to make you feel so shut in and for the most part of the time here, I feel quite lonesome. the girls are off on excursions almost every day. Yesterday they went to Bethel in the cars, distance about twenty miles, this forenoon they have gone with two or three other girls about two miles distant from here. Last Thursday afternoon I went with them to Lead Mine Bridge about five miles from here. Mr. Lary drove us over. It was a beautiful ride and gave us a splendid view of the mountains and especially of Washington and that was the first and only time I ever expect to see it. The girls have not been to Mt. Washington yet but intend to sometime while here.

You don't write how you enjoy yourself where you are and if you are homesick you mean to keep it to yourself. I should think your horseback ride would be a good thing for you. You don't say any thing about coming home yet. I suppose it is almost time to begin to think about it. I long for the time if God permit when we shall all be at home together again. I don't like this being scattered so far apart. Thomas went to the Cape last Thursday (and I had a letter from him Saturday noon) so it leaves just half of our family at home. I expect they must be having rather a lonesome time and still too I should think.

I may go home before Mary. She expects some to stay four weeks and I don't feel as if I could stop so long.

With much love and hoping to see you before <u>very many</u> weeks.

I remain your affect. Mother A. G. Davis

P. S. Be sure and write often and let us know how you are every time.

65 Myrtle St.
Somerville, MA

Somerville May 21, 1878

My Dear Son,

The time is past that I ought to have written to you but thought I would improve this first opportunity to let you know why I have not written before. At the time you left home, I certainly thought that I should write very soon, but we have had to much company besides having house cleaning to do every minute we could spare.

We miss you so much. The day you left home was a trying day to us all, and it seemed to me then as if I could never be happy again. I have been hoping to hear something definite from you. I wanted to know if you were having things comfortable and pleasant there for you, and if you have been very lonesome, and how you and enjoying your first experience of farming and especially I want to know about your health. I suppose you enjoy the out-door life. I think it must be beautiful down there now on pleasant days, and would like to be there, too.

Hope to hear all the particulars when Solomon comes up this week. I reckon a good deal on his visit and wish you could come too. Have you given up all idea of coming up soon. You thought you might when you went away. We shall be lonesome enough tomorrow night. Thomas is going to Providence tomorrow to be gone one to two nights and there will be only four of us at home.

It is very trying to me to have my children go away from home. Still I know I have a great deal to be thankful for. I thought that day you went away if you were going out West. I didn't know what I should do. I must write to Mary this afternoon it has been four weeks since I have written to her. So I will write no more this time.

We shall be glad to get letters from you often. With a great deal of love, I am

Your Affect. mother A. G. Davis

Somerville Nov. 10, 1878

My Dear Son,

I have been thinking of writing for some time, but we have had so much to do, that it has seemed almost impossible to find time to write. I suppose you will be coming home soon, but I thought I would write just a few line to let you know that we are glad you are coming and that we shall expect you sometime this week.

Annie has received Josie's letter yesterday and we shall expect her Wednesday afternoon. Some one will be very much disappointed if Solomon can't come up to Thanksgiving. It seems as if, he might get someone to take care of the things for a day or two. I suppose you are very busy and find plenty to do all the time.

We have been having real cold, winterish weather the last week. Mary is going somewhere nearly all the time, there are so many places she wants to go before she goes home. We all went to Dr. Hemenway's and spent the day Wednesday and had a very pleasant visit. Friday we were all invited to Mrs. Knight's to spend the day, we all went except Thomas. He had to go to Providence. Saturday Mary went to Danvers to visit Frank Hawes. Julie Warden went with her. They were gone all day. Baby is coming forward very fast and is getting to be very cunning. She goes by things and will push a chair before her all around the rooms. I think you will see quite a change in her.

Will write no more at present, as we hope to see you very soon.

Love to all, from Mother

Ebenezer Davis House
8 Mt. Vernon St.

Maria Harding Davis & Capt. Ebenezer Davis
" Aunt Maria" "Uncle Ebenezer"

Somerville Oct. 12th 1884
Sunday P. M.

My Dear Son,

Yours of the eighth was received yesterday morning. We were glad to hear from you and to learn that all were well. Possibly you may have started for home, before this reaches Dover, but I will venture to write anyway, and if you are not there, Mary will be glad to hear from home.

The weather is variable, sometimes hot and again quite cold. There was a white frost Thursday night, but the girls covered up the tenderest plants, so that they were not much injured.

Last night was a warm night, and this morning it was a warm and pleasant as summer, but it began to rain before church was out, and since then has been raining quite hard, but is still very warm.

Did you go to Alvam's Thursday as you intended? We had company that day. Uncle Ebenezer and Aunt Maria, Aunt Azubah, and Mrs. Knight. Lizzie came and she and her mother stayed all night. It was pleasant but quite cool. Josie heard from Solomon yesterday. He was well and was to be at Potsdam today. I suppose Thomas will go to Miss Appleton's wedding next Thursday evening and he has, or expects to have an invitation to Miss Shedd's wedding soon. The Thomas folks have moved and the Burr house looks pretty fine in its new coat of paint.

Mrs. Knight has the blinds off her house and expects the painters there this week. I have some curiosity to know what the color will be. Emily commenced yesterday to give lessons to Alice Paul and another young lady.

I didn't forget that it was Annie's birthday yesterday and thought of her a good many times in the course of the day. I suppose they have to give some kind of a time to do it honor. It will be my birthday Tuesday. You tell so much about the (darling) little Ralph and praise him so much that I imagine he must be something more than common. And my desire to see him is very great. Do the children look much grown and did they all know you?

I suppose Mary is very busy getting the children's clothes ready for cold weather. She wrote that she expected someone there to help her. We shall hardly know whether to expect you this week or not, unless we hear from you again. Hope you are having a good rest, and that your health will be much benefitted by the change.

We miss you very much and will be very glad to have you home again. All are well.

Much love to all.

Your affect. Mother A. G. Davis

42 Broadway,

"Mrs. Knight"
(Sarah Davis Knight)

Daughter of James Webb Davis
Cousin of Joshua H. Davis, Sr.
Widow of Dr. Nathaniel Jordan Knight

Somerville Nov. 23, 1884

My dear Son,

Your letter was received Tuesday, as we hoped, and was quite satisfactory. Think you show a decided improvement already in that line.

Your note to Thomas was received Thursday. Do you find Mr. ___ hard to make a bargain with? I am afraid he will be inclined to take advantage if he finds you are anxious to secure the business. We hope you will not be influenced to accept of it to your disadvantage. We are anxious to hear what success you may have. I think every day, I wish we could hear from Joshua, and know how he is getting along. We miss you more than I can tell, and it has seemed so lonesome since you went away. There are so many things to remind us of you, but they all remind us of your goodness and that makes us more sensible of our loss. And we are hoping that all will turn out for the best. We had nice weather for several days, after you left. I was afraid it might grow cold, and that you would see the need of your thick overcoat before you got there. Monday was a very pleasant day, but it grew cold in the night and when we got up Tuesday morning we realized a great change in the weather. The air was sharp and cold like winter.

It commenced snowing sometime Wednesday morning and continued to snow about all day. (that was a very lonesome day) Friday it began to grow warm again. To-day is very warm for the season, and looks some like rain. The snow is just about all gone.

Mrs. Knight has been in here since I commenced writing. She wished me to send you her regards. She is intending to go down to Freeman's to get her picture.

We haven't heard from Mr. and Mrs. Mason yet. If they do not come, we shall have a pretty lonesome Thanksgiving dinner. Josie and the girls are coming in the afternoon to be here to supper. We shall think of you as being with Mary and her family and wish you could all be with us.

Annie's jacket was received Friday Morning. Annie is waiting for some word before changing it.

My letters are never very satisfactory to me, but I don't know as I can promise any improvement in that line.

Much love to Mary and family yourself included. Hoping to hear from you very soon again, Am as ever your Affect. Mother

A. G. Davis

Thomas Lombard Davis

Somerville Jan. 25th 1885

My dear son Joshua,

Yours of the 16th was duly received and was glad to hear that your health is improved, and that you are standing the cold weather of Minnesota so well.

I have been feeling so badly about Thomas going abroad this winter that I thought I would wait till after he was gone before I wrote you. Of course I am not feeling better about it, and shall not till we hear of his safe arrival. We hadn't much warning of his going, as he hadn't thought of going himself, till the first of Jan. and then, he was in hopes on my account that some arrangement might be made so that he need not have to go. But he said that it was necessary on account of their business that he should go, and that he should go now. He took the half past ten train Friday evening for New York, and was going to sail at eleven A. M. on the Britannic. It was a snow storm here yesterday forenoon, though a mild one. To-day is very mild and almost like spring.

I feel much worse about Thomas going this time, than I did when he went before. One reason is that I miss you so much. Oh! you don't know Joshua how much I do miss you. I never needed you <u>so much</u> before in all my life. When Thomas went before you did more to keep up my courage and brighten me up than any one else, though I didn't always quite believe what you said, it did me good. And now we are <u>so lonesome</u> and want you so much, and Solomon is going away too next week, and then all my boys will be away. Sarah dreamed last night that you came home. I told her I didn't wonder at it we talked so much about you. Father was saying last evening that we should have to get you imported.

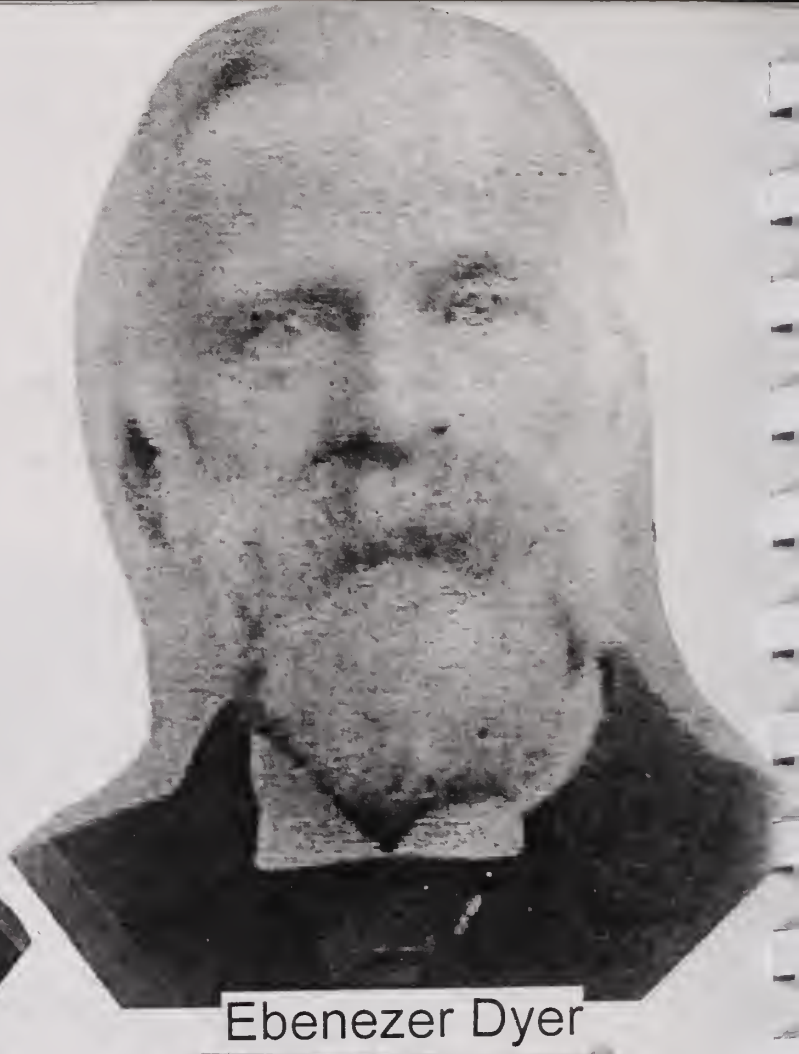
You think you don't have many letters. The girls think that a letter to answers for you as well. But when you remove to Plainview we shall write you oftener, and we shall expect more than a two paged letter.

I can't write any more now, but hope this will find you all well. Take good care of yourself. Much love to Mary and the children with a large share for yourself. Kiss all those dear children for grandma. I wish Mary would write me soon. You will be sure will you not!

Your loving mother

A. G. Davis

Sarah Rich Dyer



Ebenezer Dyer

Emily Dyer

Mabel Dyer

Somerville March 1, 1885

My dear son Joshua

Your last letter to me is dated Feb. 6 Whether I have written to you since I do not remember. If I have not, it is time that I should.

Your letter to Annie was received Friday morning, and fathers, Saturday morning. I suppose you are glad to get work at the bank, as you have been anticipating so long. We think it has been greatly to your advantage waiting. It has given you a chance to become better acquainted with people and the business, and as you say it is ever so much nicer for you to go to Plainview now, when spring is so near, than it would have been last fall, besides its having been such an advantage to Mary, having you there this winter.

I expect Mary and the children miss you dreadfully. But then you have helped them through the worst part of the winter. We hope you boarding place will prove to be all that you desire. I should have liked better for you to have got into a family, where there are no small children. A great deal depends on what kind of children they are. How far is your boarding place from the bank?

We received three letters from Thomas Tuesday morning, but have had none since. The earlier dates were from London, but the last was from Holland dated Feb. 12. having arrived there the day before. Had a pleasant passage across the sea. His stay in London was longer than he expected it would be as some of the parties in Holland were away and they wrote to him not to come before.

From Flushing to Govs *(sic)* he had a companion who he met on the train who belonged not far from Ryssen where Thomas was going. He spoke English and pointed out everything of interest. He says it is rainy and damp there. Some of the country being flooded with water caused by a rise in the river. Could not tell how much longer he should remain there. Says he may go to Amsterdam, Rotterdam and the Hague, after leaving Ryssen.

He says he is very comfortable there at the house of his friends, and they do everything they can to make it pleasant for him. We don't know yet when to look for his coming home. Before he left home he thought it possible that he might come home on the Britannic that leaves Liverpool Mar. 19. the Britannic left N. Y. for Liverpool yesterday. I think Thomas has been more attentive to M. this winter than ever before. Annie and Sarah called to see her week before last.

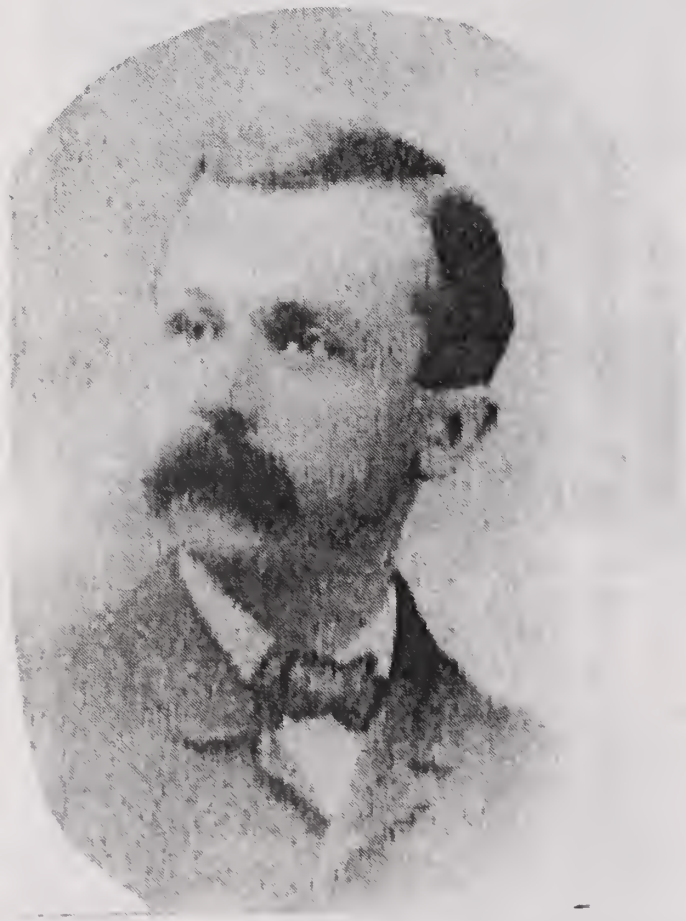
Thomas has improved of late in many respects, and I hope yet to see him grow up to be more like his elder brothers.

Company came last week as expected. Aunt Azubah and Lizzie came Tuesday night. Eben.'s folks came Wednesday forenoon and stayed till Thursday afternoon when they went to Uncle Ebenezer's to tea. Aunt Azubah was here to dinner Wednesday. We had a parsnip stew and chicken pie Thursday for dinner. Eben said it was a <u>stupendous</u> stew. I guess you would have thought that he had a <u>stupendous</u> appetite if you had seen how he ate of it. He had just as many stories to tell as ever.

Solomon was well at last account and was doing well. Josie hardly thinks he will be at home this week. Feb. was a very trying month to him on account of the cold weather. Last week was quite mild and pleasant. It is mild today though chilly with the wind S. E.

Am glad that the winter has passed so pleasantly for you, and hope that you will find the people in Plainview equally as pleasant as those in Dover. We remember that it is your birthday tomorrow. I think we miss you now just as we did when you first went away. I don't dare to think too much about it. It make me too unhappy. Hope you will have everything arranged for your comfort as much as is possible in your new home. Of course you will have a stove so as to keep a fire while the cold weather lasts. If there is anything we can send for your comfort let us know.

Your loving mother



Solomon & Joanna "Josie" Davis
1883

Somerville Mar. 29th 1885

My Dear Son,

I believe I have had two or three letters from you since I wrote you last. I have written you since I have Mary, but will write to her some other time.

Your letter to Annie came yesterday. We are glad to hear that you are getting along so well in your business and that you enjoy it, but are sorry that you cannot have things pleasanter for you out of business hours.

I expected you would have many lonesome hours when you went to Plainview. I am very glad that it is spring instead of fall of the year. It will make a great difference to you.

I suppose it will not be long before you will be able to go over to Mary's as often as once every week and that will be a great comfort to you. Do you realize what a difference it would make to you if you didn't have Mary's to go to? I should feel a great deal worse about you too, if it were not for your being so near her.

Don't you suppose you might have got a boarding place if you had tried harder, where you could have a stove, and things in general made pleasant for you, so that you could be by yourself when you wanted to? It worries me to think how dreary it must be for you.

Something must be done before cold weather comes again. You could not live so in the winter, nor for very long. We miss you sadly and it is a great trial to us to have you so far away, and especially so to think that you are not getting more enjoyment out of life.

I suppose you received a letter from one of the girls written Sunday evening after we got a telegram from Thomas. He got home about half past eleven. Came from Boston in the horsecar.

It was a very great relief to us all to know of his safe arrival. It had been very cold and windy here for three or four days before they arrived. He said four or five days after leaving Queenstown it was very pleasant, and so smooth they didn't have to put guards on the table, but the last part of the passage was rough with high winds most of the time.

They had a storm of snow and rain a day or two before they got in, and when the ship came in to the Harbor Thomas said she was a pretty sight being covered with ice. Solomon didn't stay at home very long less than two weeks. He wrote Josie that he expected to be at Gloverville to-day.

We will remember you to Mrs. Knight. She always inquires about you. All are well. Hope this finds you well. God bless and comfort you my dear child away from home and friends.

With love Mother

Jaazaniah Gross
Son of Isaac & Betsey Davis Gross
Grandson of Capt. Jaazaniah Gross

Somerville Apr. 28, 1885

My dear Son,

Your welcome letter is just arrived. I had been looking hard for a letter all of yesterday and to-day, and have been thinking a good deal about you.

The reason you didn't get any letter last week, was because we depended on Sarah's writing, and she put it off till the middle of the week, but you must have got it by Monday if not before. The spring though tardy is really come, and last week it seemed as if summer was right upon us. The weather the first of the week seemed like the first of May, but Thursday and Friday were like July days. Saturday it began to grow cooler, and Sunday we had an easterly rain storm. Rain was much needed, and it freshened up things nicely.

It seems to me I never saw things some forward so fast as they did last week. I hadn't hardly noticed that the buds had begun to swell the first of the week, but by the last of the week, the green leaves had begun to make quite a show. There don't seem to be any blossoms on the large pear tree this year. Nothing has been done to the front yard yet.

You do come, and have some callers once in a while. Does it seem and are feeling very lonesome, since you have been to your new boarding place? Have you occupied the room yet that they were getting ready for you. Is it? or will it be a pleasant room for you to sit it, when you want to be by yourself? Do you think your fare is going to suit you pretty well, where you are now?

I often wish when we have anything that I think you like, that you could share with us. We have had some nice bawldin *(sic)* apples this spring and I often wish you could have some.

We received the map of Plainview that you sent. It would seem from that, as if your boarding place is not very far from the Bank.

We knew at the time of the Ship Grecian being lost, saw it in the papers. Father went right over to see Jaazaniah. he said you wouldn't lose anything by her as she was fully insured. Father was going to write to you, but Jaaz. said that he had written you. We were glad to know that you were not going to lose anything by her.

I suppose the last time you were to Mary's was when Mrs. Wording went with you. The children have all been sick with colds since then, and Mary has had a bad cold too. In her last letter she wrote that Ralph and Annie both had a bad cough.

It will be nice when the roads get good so that you can drive out anytime when you want to. Do you expect to have a horse of your own this summer? We are glad to hear of your continued good health, and hope this will find you well. Excuse the writing and the bad composition as I have written in a hurry.

With much love and many longings to see you.

from Mother

Anna Maria Davis
"Annie"

Somerville June 6, 1885
Saturday a. m.

My dear Son,

What can be the reason that we have had no letter from you this week?

I have been expecting one for the last three or four days, and to-day is the last day of the week, and still no letter. I am greatly disappointed, besides being anxious. What can it mean?

I wrote to you a week ago last Tuesday morning, and Emily wrote again Sunday afternoon, and put the letter in the box Sunday night.

Your last letter to me is dated May 14th. Annie has received one since then. Sarah had a letter from Mary yesterday. She said that you were there Friday night so as to attend the banquet given by the literary society. So you missed your Sunday visit there.

Yesterday stormy again, and a very hard rainstorm in the afternoon so that there was no school.

There are but three more weeks of school before vacation, and father is very busy, and will be till the close of the term. I think he seems pretty well for a man of his age, though he gets tired sooner than he used to.

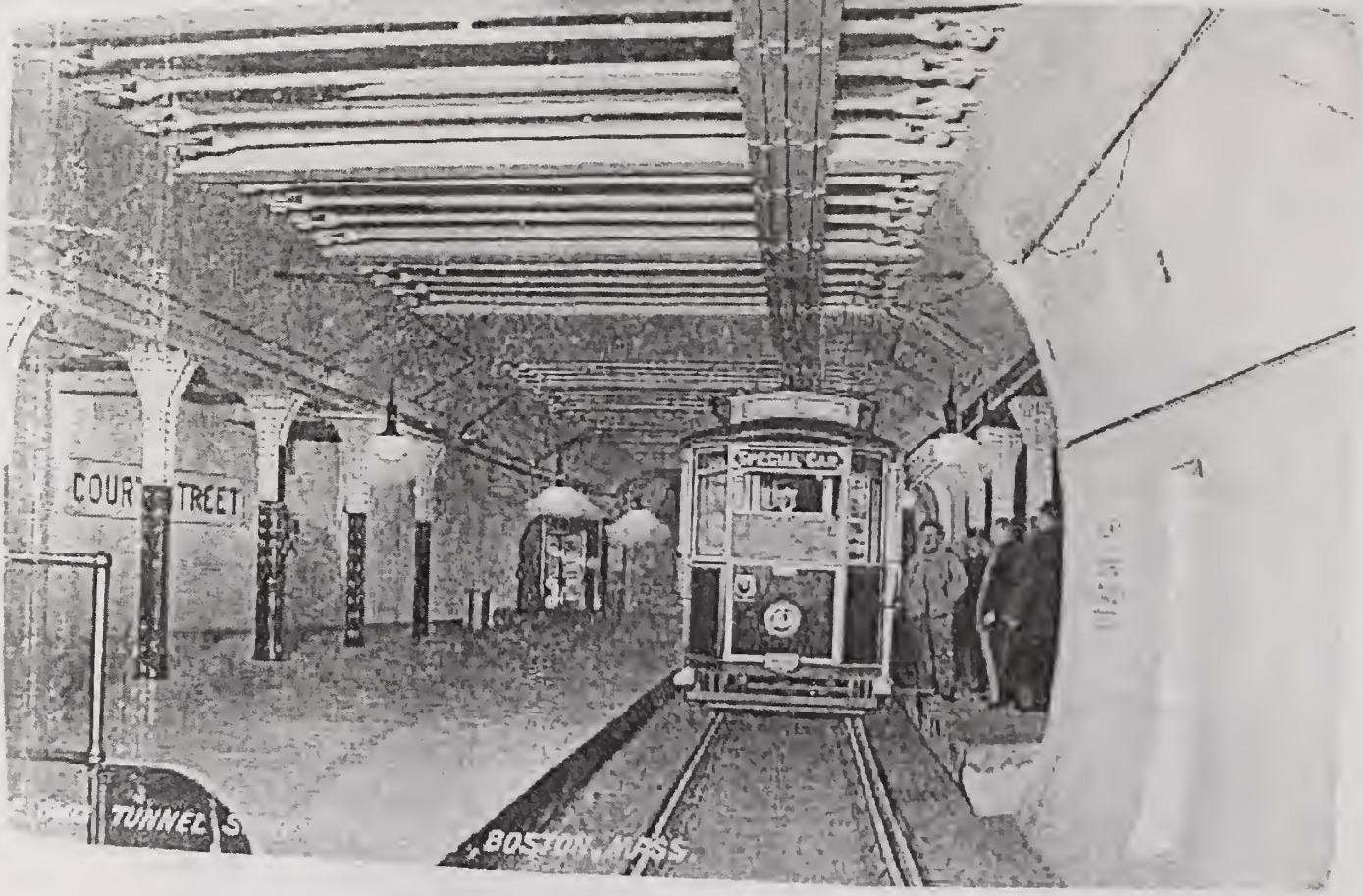
Solomon got home last Friday morning. He went to New Bedford the first of the week, and got home Wednesday night. He called just for a minute this morning. His health is about the same as usual, but he is looking rather thin.

Last Saturday was Carrie's birthday, and father and I called up there in the afternoon. It is the only time I have been up there since the week after Thanksgiving. I suppose Emily wrote you all the news there was to write. We have got all through cleaning house now. If you could only come home once in a while.

We hope to hear from you very soon and to know that you are well.

Do try to write regularly if it is so that you can, I am so apt to get anxious. With a great deal of love and many longings to see you.

from Mother


COURT STREET
SPECIAL CAR
TUNNEL
BOSTON, MASS.

NOTICE
NOTICE
5
SULLIVAN SQ. TERMINAL INTERIOR CHARLESTOWN, MASS.

Somerville July 12th. 1885

My dear Son,

I suppose you received Annie's letter last week. Yours was received Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Ingham came unexpectedly Tuesday forenoon. We expected them to come Wednesday, and were going to prepare for them and have everything in readiness.

The girls were in the midst of their ironing, and I had begun to put things in order and had just got father's writing table put to rights, when the door bell rang, and behold! Mr. and Mrs. Ingham.

I felt rather bad at first. I thought they ought to have let us know when they were coming. Mrs. Ingham said she intended to write and let us know, but that she had forgotten the address entirely. Of course she knew father's name and that we lived in Somerville, but she thought she ought to have the name of the street. However, we made out very well. The girls put away the ironing and cleared up the rooms, and went to work preparing dinner.

Father went to the store, and got steak, peas, strawberries and banannas *(sic)*. He got some extra nice strawberries for the table, and some not so nice for strawberry shortcake. We had a gooseberry pie in the house so all together we made out a very nice dinner.

They got here about ten and went away again at quarter past four. But we all enjoyed their little visit very much, and they seemed to enjoy it too. We had invited Solomon's folks to come Wednesday afternoon, as we expected Mr. and Mrs. Ingham to spend the day. And though they expect to come here again on their return from Maine, we thought it probable that Solomon would not be at home at that time. So after dinner father and Mr. Ingham started off to Boston to see Solomon. Solomon came back with them, but they didn't have but a little while to stay after that, as it was quite late when we had dinner. They went on the same train with Jaazaniah when they went into Boston so that Mr. Ingham had a chance to see him. I expect they agreed perfectly in regard to a certain individual. Mr. and Mrs. Ingham are loud in their praises, they think there is nobody like Joshua.

I am glad that you have got such a nice team. You will find it a great convenience, and will no doubt get a great comfort out of it.

Yes, we should enjoy having a ride once in a while, but shall have to be content with taking our rides in horsecars.

Father is talking some of going to the Cape, but I don't know as he is quite decided.

Can't you come home in the harvest season as you will not be busy then? I wish you would try to come if you can possibly do so.

I believe Solomon expects to go away again two weeks from to-morrow.

It has been a beautiful day to-day and something about the weather tonight reminds me of autumn.

With much love am still your affectionate mother

A. G. Davis

Sarah Elizabeth Gross Davis

Somerville, Oct. 11, 1885

My dear Son,

We did get to feeling real anxious about you last week. I thought you must be sick, and I thought too that you might have met with some accident with your horse.

I told our folks that if we didn't get any letter Thursday from the West, I thought we had better telegraph.

Two weeks seems a good while not to hear anything from you, and then I was the more anxious because in your last letter you had written, that you did not intend to let a week go by without writing, and that you would try not to in the future.

Thomas brought the telegram when he came from Boston Thursday night, and though it was not very satisfactory, we concluded that there was nothing very serious the matter. Your letter came Friday morning and put an end to our fears.

We didn't get any letter from Mary last week, but were not so much surprised at that knowing how busy she must be with her sewing and with teaching her new girl. We remember that it is little Annie's birth day to-day.

It is a beautiful autumn day, not too cool. We have had very cool weather this fall most of the time, though no signs of frost here. The flowers are still blooming in the garden.

I went to church this morning and set in Mr. Warden's pew so managed to hear considerable of Dr. Merriman's sermon which was an excellent one.
Text I Thessalonians 1:5. We have been without a choir for sometime but have a new one now.

Maria Delano and her sister Mrs. Smith called here Friday afternoon. Mrs. Smith was at New London when we were there. Charlie Foote is on here now, and the girls are thinking of having him, Mrs. Bigelow, and Mattie Tenney to come Tuesday and spend the afternoon and evening.

The great meeting of the American Board is to be in Boston this week. Almost every family in our society about here, expect to entertain company. We expect Mr. Myrick will stop here one night, but don't know as we shall have any other company.

We hear from Solomon occasionally. His hay fever seemed to get better after he went away. He writes that he is well, and doing well. Carrie and Helen are well. They have just been in here from S. School.

I should think it would be best for you to put your horse out this winter, of course you couldn't use him much in cold weather.

We haven't very many pears and very few except the vicars and Gloutmorcean, but we shall try to send some to you and Mary. I often think of you when we have fruit, and wish you could have some.

Try to write every week if possible, I am so apt to get anxious. It was Sarah's turn to write to-day, but I was afraid she would neglect to write.

Hoping this will find you well, will close with love.

Your affect. Mother

A. G. Davis

Mary Lombard

Somerville, Oct. 25, 1885

Dear Brother Joshua,

We have had delightful fall weather all of this month - there have been slight local frosts, but none severe enough as yet to affect anything in our garden - in which are still blooming heliotrope and nasturtions *(sic)* - pansies and mignionette *(sic)* beside the chrysanthemums.

Our grapes it seems to me never before had so good an opportunity to get thoroughly ripe & the few we have had been very sweet - I believe the vines are stripped now - and the pears are all gathered - father sent off Friday morning two half barrels of pears - one to Dover & the other to Plainview so that you have a taste of them by and by - I hope they may prove to be nice -

The tenement houses back of us are progressing rapidly - are plastered inside and the painters are at work on the outside - Henry Hadley is having his house painted - yellow with dark olive trimmings -

Solomon got home last Wed. evening - having had a satisfactory trip - is looking & feeling pretty well - has about recovered from the effects of his hay-fever - which has been very troublesome - He and Josie spent Thurs. evening with us and he called in again to-night after S .S. with Carrie & Helen. The girls are well and both go to school - are both growing tall fast - Helen especially -

George Noble took dinner with us last Tuesday and spent the afternoon - leaving here just before tea-time to spend the night with Nathaniel - he is looking very well - has grown stout, and is feeling much stronger than before he went away. He has made no plans as yet for this winter - hardly likely to remain in this climate for fear of losing all that he has gained.

Thursday, Mary Lombard and Edith Noble were here to dinner - Mary came on to attend the meetings of the Am. Board - went back again Friday night - she said her mother was very well

Mr. Anthony Collins sent us last week the produce of his farm about a bushel of cranberries - Some pop corn - a basket of grapes, & about 2-1/2 barrels of apples - greening & baldwins.

He write a few lines to father - said that he was comfortable and had all that he needed - wished us to give his regards to you when we wrote -

I don't think of any more news to write - all of our friends are as well as usual as far as I know - Sadie Hemenway has been home from college for a week or two sick with dyspepsia - is better now - was intending I believe to go back again to school yesterday -

Everything goes on as usual here at home - Father gets pretty tired often with his work. He dined yesterday at the Parker House with the School Masters Club - was there from two to five -

He bought him a new overcoat yesterday of Solomon - nicely made - and a nice looking garment, for $25.

Much love from your affectionate sister,

Annie

Mary Eleanor Davis

Somerville Nov. 8, 1885
Sunday p. m.

My dear Son,

Your short letter to Annie was received in due time, with the draft to father. We had a letter from Mary written last Monday, saying that you were there last Sunday also the Sunday before.

We have been having very nice weather this fall, with very little frost as yet. We had a little frost one night that killed the heliotrope but all the other things are quite green and the mignonette and pansies are still blooming. The last week, since Monday which was stormy has been unusually warm for November, and pleasant until yesterday, which was foggy, dark and dismal, though still very warm for the season.

Last night was so warm as to be uncomfortable. To-day it is raining but mild and warm, so much so that with a little furnace fire, we are obliged to have some of the windows open. Solomon left home on another trip last Monday morning. He is going to try to get home again before Thanksgiving, but I am afraid he will not be able to. Solomon was looking pretty well when he was at home last, much better than he did a year ago.

Does it seem as if Thanksgiving could be so near as two weeks from next Thursday? I wish you and Mary and her family could be with us Thanksgiving day. I suppose you will be likely to spend the day with Mary.

In your letter to Sarah of Oct. 23 you say that you have taken Mrs. Burchard's father's and mother's rooms. Their rooms are down stairs are they not? You describe the sitting room and the bed-room leading from it, and then you say, "they are both very pretty rooms, but the chamber is pleasanter, as it has so nice a light." Now which did you mean by the chamber, the bed-room down stairs or the one up stairs? We had a little dispute about it, so I thought I would like to know. Then you say there is a large closet or clothes room in the chamber. I am glad to know that you are to have such comfortable quarters for the winter. I suppose it is nearly or quite time for the pears to arrive. I hope some of them will be mellow enough to eat by the time you get them. They are not very choice. Father tried to get some earlier pears to send but couldn't get any. We had perhaps about a peck of duchesse *(sic)* pears, and I didn't know but that father had sent a few of those till after the barrels had gone.

Father says that he shall pay the freight and expressage. You ought not to have sent that draft.

Do you know the date of your leaving home last fall? We can't any of us remember, and father failed to put it down. We re pleased to hear that your health is so good, and that you seem to be prospering. Hoping this will find you well, will close with a great deal of love.

from Mother

Levi Franklin Stevens Davis
"Levi"
(as a young man)

Somerville Dec. 6, 1885

My dear Son,

We received the two short notes from you, but it seems a long time, since we have heard much from you. We conclude that you are very busy and must be full of business. The last letter I had from you was written almost four weeks ago.

We haven't had any letter from Mary yet since thanksgiving, but I had one from Little Annie. She said that you were to Mr. Ingham's and that you gave all the children a little ride after dinner. Father had a letter from Louis at the same time.

Solomon and Thomas both got home the night before Thanksgiving. Solomon's family were all here to dinner. We missed you but thought of you as having a merry time at Mr. Ingham's

We have been having a good deal of dark stormy weather lately, and quite cold at times. There was quite a mild rain storm yesterday, but to-day is cold and windy, the ground is frozen and some ice in the sheets, but the grass is still quite green, as are some of the plants in the garden. Emily picked two or three pansies this noon and one was quite perfect.

Mr. Elisha Littlefield and wife had their silver wedding anniversary last Monday evening. Father and I were invited but did not go. Father attended a school committee meeting at City Hall. School work keeps increasing all the time. I think father has never seemed to have so much to do as he has since the schools commenced last fall. The evening schools have made a good deal of extra work for him.

Solomon and Levi and about getting up a surprise party for Nathaniel next Tuesday evening. I believe they intend to invite about the same company that they did to Levi's anniversary. I think it is likely that it will be more of a surprise to them than if it had come on their anniversary.

Did the girls write you that we had gas lights right in front of out house, on the other side of the street? We like it very much and would be sorry now to be without it. We find that the block of houses out back of us, do not injure us so much as we thought they would in regard to taking the sun from us. We don't get it quite so early in the morning, that is all.

Have you enjoyed your pears? Did they mellow good? Ours are about all gone.

How do you manage about getting your clothes washed and mended? Does Mrs. Burchard do it for you? I am glad you have got a horse to suit you. Are you sure that she is gentle and safe? We didn't hear any thing more about your corn sociable. Was it successful? I almost forgot to say that Solomon is intending to have the Christmas tree to his house this Christmas.

If you see Annie before she gets a letter from me, tell her that I shall try to write very soon.

Capt. John Paine died Friday night. He had been gradually failing for sometime.

Try to write oftener and more. Hope this finds you well. Much love from,

Mother

Emily Small Davis

Somerville Jan.11, 1886
Monday a. m.

My dear son

Your letter to Annie from Dover was received Friday, and yours to Thomas with the check was received Saturday. Your letter of Dec. 27 announcing your engagement was also duly received.

I should have written to you last week, but I found that Emily had written so I wrote to Mary. We were not so very much surprised to hear of your engagement as we had been rather expecting it after what we heard from Mr. and Mrs. Ingham when they were here.

We congratulate you and wish you much happiness in the new relation. I think it very desirable on your own account that you should get married and have a home of your own. I know that it cannot be much living for you to live as you do now.

You waited a good while and I am glad you have found the right one at last and one worthy of you. You certainly deserve a good wife. We would like very much to see the young lady and as we cannot see her at present, we hope you will send her likeness very soon. We were glad to hear that you got the ring, all in good time, and that you were so well suited with it. We didn't see it, as Thomas had it sent right from Boston, but we liked the one he bought for himself very much.

Two diamond rings in our family in the course of three or four months is rather strange happenings, is it not?

It seems that you didn't get to Plainview till Tuesday. Where did you stay that night in Eyeota? We are having pretty severe weather at present. It came on to snow Friday night, and continued to snow through the most part of the day Saturday so that now the snow lies pretty deep. Since then it has been very cold, and continues so. Yesterday morning it was 8 above zero and this morning 6 or so. We see by this morning's paper that the weather has been unusually severe all through the states. We were pleased to her that you all enjoyed your Christmas so much. The weather and everything conspired to make it pleasant for you.

I am so glad that you are enjoying such good health and hope by taking care of yourself, that you will continue.

I am glad also that you enjoy your horse so much. I am afraid that she will get pretty lively if you don't use her much. Isn't there danger of it? You must look for her and be very careful.

I am afraid you will have a rather lonesome winter if you can't go to Mary's very often but then you will be living on hope. Am glad your pears are mellowing at last and that they are nice. No more this time. With very much love,

Mother

Cora Cecelia Hendrick Davis

Somerville Feb. 14, 1886

My dear son,

We do not seem to hear very much from you of late. We did not get any letter from you last week, and only a short one the week before.

We received a letter from Emerson Tuesday morning saying that they had a little daughter added to their family.

It was a great surprise to us, as we did not know that anything of the kind was expected. It was very fortunate indeed for Mary that she could have Augusta back to her again.

I think we have been having a pretty close winter, cold and a good deal of snow had fallen more than we usually have. But we had a long heavy rain storm the last week, which has carried off, nearly all the snow and ice, so the walking is quite good now. There has been a good deal of water in the cellar the last three or four days, more, father thinks than we ever had in the winter before. There has been quite a serious inundation in a part of Roxbury caused by an overflow of Stony Brook. To-day is a beautiful day, warm, and springlike, so was last Tuesday, and those two days are the only really pleasant days, that we have had in a good while. We haven't any of us seen Josie this week, so have not heard anything from Solomon. We are expecting Eben and his wife here soon, to make their annual visit. We are going to invite Samuel and Mary to spend the evening here, when they do come.

Father has had quite a bad cold and cough this winter, but it seems to be nearly well now. He was at Youngs last Wednesday evening, but his cold was too bad for him to go to the January meeting.

Mrs. Knight always inquires about you. She was quite unwell a few weeks ago. She strained herself carrying a heavy hod of coal up stairs. She came in here last Tuesday. She said she hadn't been out for five weeks. She says now that she isn't going to work so hard anymore. Uncle Ebenezer does not seem to be in usual health. Mrs. Knight says she thinks he fails. One day father was down there, I suppose they were speaking of you. Uncle Ebenezer said that he thought that he should have heard from you before then. When father came home he asked if you had borrowed any money of him. It seems as if he expected a letter. Are you not having a pretty lonesome time this winter? or does it begin to seem a little like home to you there now?

Does Cora Hendricks expect to go to school any longer after this term is out? We are quite impatient to see her picture. Hoping you're well and with many longings to see you, will close with ever so much love.

from

Mother

Helen Davis - 1887
Daughter of Solomon and Josie

Somerville Mar. 21, 1886

My dear son

It seems a good while since I have written to you, but I believe the girls have written regularly except last week. And as father and Annie both wrote late the week before, we though it hardly necessary to write again so soon. Neither did we have any letter from you last week. We received a letter from Mary yesterday morning however. She said that you came to Dover Monday night and that you were looking well and were in excellent spirits. Of which I was glad to hear.

Well! the long, cold winter is past and spring has come, so the almanac says. I always feel glad to see the bright spring days again. March has been unusually pleasant this year I think. We have had some very nice weather this month. We had quite a little snow storm Friday night. I should think there were three or four inches of snow yesterday morning, but it has been raining since and it is now nearly all gone.

Solomon left home on another trip last Monday morning. Helen was sick again last week. She hasn't seemed very well this winter.

Thomas has decided not to go to Europe this spring. They didn't let me know that he had any thoughts of going till he had decided not to go. Emily had two new scholars last week and expects another this week. The studio looks real nice now. They have moved out the bed and last week Annie and Emily went over and selected some inexpensive paper (though pretty) and yesterday the men came out and put it on. Thomas bears the expense. It is a greet improvement, as the old paper had got to looking very shabby.

You say we must make our plans to go West this summer. Mary has written urging us to come. But I am afraid that father cannot be persuaded to think that he can go. He said that he will have to stay at home and work in vacation, though of course he will need rest, you know how much.

I should like <u>very much</u> to visit you and Mary this summer if it were best for us to. Of course we should feel differently if we could pay our own expenses.

I expect the winter has seemed long and tedious to you, and that you are not sorry that it is gone. I suppose that Cora is home by this time, or will be very soon. We have not received that picture yet. I have many longings to see you. Hope this will find you well and happy. From your loving mother,

A. G. Davis

Helen is better.

Dorcas Maria Davis Snow

Michael Snow

Clarina Davis Nickerson
"Clara"

Somerville May 16, 1886

My dear son

Your letter to Sarah was received last Monday morning. We did not hear from Mary last week.

We have been having a long, cold Easterly spell of weather and stormy. We have had rain enough now to last quite a long while. It was raining hard this morning but the wind has changed and it seems to be clearing, and we hope soon to have better weather. Everything is fresh and beautiful since the rain. To-day is called White Sunday, but last Sunday would have been more appropriately called so, as the trees were in full bloom then.

When I have been writing, since receiving Cora's picture I have forgotten to mention it. We were much pleased to receive it, and like it very much. We think she must be a very nice looking young lady. Probably we should think the original even better looking than the picture.

Mrs. Knight liked the picture very much and thought she must be real pretty. Annie received a very nice letter from Cora last week. I feel since receiving that as if we could trust your happiness to her. Please give her my love.

Uncle Ebenezer is very weak and quite low. They have but very little hope of his ever being any better. Michael and Dorcas are there and Clara came this morning. Eben. came over to see him this afternoon and was here too. We are expecting Solomon home the middle of this week. Did the girls write you that Mr. Hughes was going to build a house between his house and the bake shop? they have broken the ground and have commenced to get ready to build. It seems almost too bad to break up there it was so pretty.

The Wilsons have gone, but the house is not sold yet. We hear that Hetty Wilson is going to be married the last of June.

I think we may possibly go West this summer. But I suppose father won't decide till the last moment. We both want to come very much. I wish you would try to write once a week. You think we wouldn't be interested in what is going on there, but we should. Mary wrote us that you had bought a house. We are interested to know all about that.

I hope we shall have a letter from you to-morrow. You will be pretty busy this summer with building and getting ready for housekeeping. With ever so much

love from Mother

Joshua H. Davis, Sr.
"Father"

Somerville Aug. 29, 1886

My dear son

I thought to have received a letter from you before this, but suppose you are waiting for me to write first. I am not in the mood for writing today, as I am very much depressed, and feel as if all the foundations were giving way under me.

I feel dreadfully about Annie's leaving home, and I think she feels sorry to leave us so. She is getting ready and will probably be with you before your wedding takes place. I suppose your mind is all taken up with your business and approaching marriage.

I shall be glad for you when you get settled in a home of your own and wish you and Cora all the happiness the world can give.

Father has seemed very well since we came home. His cough still hangs on, and his appetite is not very good.

I suppose Annie wrote you that Solomon had been home two three days, and had gone again on a trip of two weeks. Thomas came home from camp Tuesday, was at home Tuesday night, and started for North Conway Wednesday afternoon. Mattie and her mother went up there the Friday before. We had a letter from Thomas Thursday saying that Mrs. Tenney was sick. They were intending to start for Mt. Washington Thursday, but Mattie couldn't leave her mother. They hoped to be able to go the next day, and expected to be gone two days. He was not going to write again while there, but we expect him home Monday or Tuesday.

We have been having cool weather most of the time since we came home and some part of the time very cool. But we have had some pretty warm days the last week. It is cooler again to-day with an east wind. Mary wrote and we have seen by the papers too that you have been having very hot weather, since we came home. It must have made it very uncomfortable for you in that small close room.

I am glad that you are not going to have to endure much longer. Mary wrote about your being overtaken by the storm Saturday night.

Give my love to Cora please and reserve a large share for yourself.

Hope this finds you well and prosperous. I am interested to know how you are getting along with your affairs, and hope to hear from you often.

Your affectionate Mother

A. G. Davis

"Father's cousin Annie M. Knight. She and her mother (first cousin of Grandfather Davis) lived across the street from the home of Grandfather Davis when our family visited there in 1899 or 1900 - and Kenneth, then 2 or 3 years old - used to run across the street to visit 'Grandma Knight.'

"Also when I visited in at Grandfather's in 1902-3."

Eleanor Davis

Somerville, Sept. 14, 1886

My dear son

Your letter was received this morning. We had been hoping to hear from you for a long time. I suppose you have been just as busy as you could be getting your house ready to live in.

There are so many things to be done to get ready to keep house. I should have liked very much to have seen the inside of your home when I was at Plainview, but I don't doubt but that it will be very nice and pleasant when you get it all fixed and furnished. It must have seemed good to you to sleep where you could have plenty of room and air.

We were disappointed that you didn't write anything about the wedding. We wanted to hear all the particulars. We don't even know what day it is to be. Whether it is the twenty-first or twenty-second.

We want you to write and let us know the day and hour and all about the arrangements. We would all like so much to be there to your wedding.

We are going to send a box the first of next week "by express" containing some wedding presents. Mrs. Knight, Kate, and Annie have each sent you something. My present to you and Cora is each a napkin ring. I hope you will like them. Solomon and Thomas can't decide what to send till they hear from you.

About Annie's going West this fall it is impossible to tell whether it would have been for the best or not. But somehow I can't help feeling that there is a Providence in it, that is has been decided as it is. I had very little to say about it either way.

Father had all the say, and he said she ought to go. When Solomon came home, he influenced Annie not to go, and she is glad now that she did so decide. Solomon does not want us to move West, and think there is no necessity of it. We had been thinking it over and was going to get it all planned and arranged in his own mind before he said anything about it. So that fathers haste in buying and Annie's rather hasty decision came upon him before he was prepared for it.

If we can all remain here together it seems to me it will be better than to make such a great change at our time of life. We shall have time to talk about it and decide before spring however. We can only hope that all will turn out for the best. I shall not probably write to you again before you are a married man. I congratulate you and pray that God will bless you in the new relation, and grant you a long life and much happiness.

Your ever loving mother

A. G. Davis

My dear Brother,

I have $200 - which I would like to deposit in your bank. I will send $193 in the box & there are $7 - due me on Augusta's shawl which I will send word to her to pay to you.

Annie

Joshua H. Davis

Cora C. Hendrick

Hendrick home where Joshua & Cora were married in 1886

Somerville Oct. 10, 1886

My dear son

We have been hoping that we should have received a letter from you ere this, and though my last to you remains unanswered, I feel as if I could be silent no longer, but will try to write a few lines, though I do not feel much like writing today.

Thomas sailed for Europe yesterday and I am feeling very lonely and sad. I did not know as he had any intention of going till last Monday night. He had but just decided that he should go. Of course I do not feel so badly about his going now, as I should in the winter, but still it is so lonesome and I can't help feeling anxious. He went to N. York Friday night and expected to sail Saturday afternoon, in the North German Lloyd S. S. Fulda, that is going to Bremen, Germany, and that will take him near Rysen in Holland where he is first going. He expects to be gone six or seven weeks, possibly longer.

Mary wrote us the day after the wedding giving us a full account of the proceedings. It must I think have been a very nice wedding, and I wish we all could all have been there to see and the bride and to have participated in the enjoyment of the occasion. Since receiving that letter from Mary, we have not heard anything from you or Mary either, and that was almost three weeks ago. I am fully aware how much you have had to take up your time, with your business and fixing your house ready for occupancy and I suppose you have been trying to make some improvements on your place in your spare moments. The building of the Bank has also added to your labor and cares, and the moving, has all brought a great deal on your hands at the present time.

We will excuse you thus far for not writing, but I do not think I ought to write again before receiving a letter from you. I expect you greatly enjoy having a home of your own, and I am truly glad for you. Give my dear love to Cora. Should be pleased to receive a letter from her also.

Hope this will find you both well.

With much love from Mother.

A. G. Davis

P. S. Solomon has been gone only three weeks, but business is rather dull, and we are expecting him home the first of this week.

"Taken in Chatfield, Minn of Cora - 7 yr. age
Dress of blk & red check wool - blk silk apron
red velvet trimmed - red coral necklace
Congress gaiters (cloth shoes, elastic sides, morocco tips)
Striped red & white wool stockings knit by Mother

Hat of tan velvet - red ostrich plume

Necklace a present from Mrs. Levi Bemis
Mr. B. partner in general store business, Chatfield
of Cora's father J. B. Hendrick -

(in Cora's writing)

Cora Cecilia Hendrick Davis
born Oct. 21, 1861

(in Eleanor Davis's writing)

Somerville Dec. 12, 1886

My dear son

It seems a long time since we have had any letters from you. Yours of Nov. 4th to father I think was the last received, though Thomas got a letter from you the last week.

It has been a good while since you have had any letter from me. I know, but I have had letters to write to someone almost every week and now that you are so well provided for, I feel that you do not need letters as much as you did when you were alone. We received the paper that you sent with the notice of your removal into your new Bank building. We were glad to know that you had finally got into it at last. You must enjoy having such a nice place for your business and you will appreciate it all the more for having had such an inconvenient and uncomfortable place heretofore.

We have had but one letter from Mary since Thanksgiving. She didn't write whether you stayed in Dover that night, but I think you did, it was so late before you got there.

We didn't have any company to dinner Thanksgiving day, but Thomas was at home and we were so thankful to have him safely home again that we didn't feel lonesome. Solomon's family were all here in the evening. We have been having wintry weather here the last fortnight. Week before last was very cold and last week we had two quite severe thunderstorms, and a large quantity of snow fell, but it is thawing now, and the snow going off quite fast.

It is cloudy to-day with east wind, and looks as if we should have rain soon. Less than two weeks to Christmas, it hardly seems possible that it is so near. We are not doing anything in the way of making Christmas presents this year or at least I am not. Levi is going to have the Christmas tree to his house this year. We have all been invited.

I have been hoping to have a letter from Cora. I sent her a letter three weeks ago, but have not heard whether she received it.

Am hoping to have letters from you both soon. Try to write oftener now, won't you Joshua? I think you ought to. I am sure.

Hoping that this will find you both well, I will close with wishing you and Cora a "merry Christmas" and happy new year. Your loving mother

A. G. Davis

Tinted Tintype

Cora C. Hendrick

Somerville March 5, 1887

My dear son

Your letter to father was received yesterday morning, and we were glad to hear from you again and to know that you were well. I know it is a long time since I have written to you and it has been a long time since I have received any letter from you. I can't find as I have received any letter from you since the one I received dated Dec. 28. It can't be possible that I have not written you since I received that. I certainly thought I had. I was intending to write a week or two before I hurt my arm, but one thing or another prevented me doing so. This is the first letter I have written since I met with the accident. Fortunately it was my left arm, and though it is still quite stiff and sore, it is gradually improving.

I am as yet unable to dress without help. It is vacation in the schools this week. Father was elected Superintendent at the meeting of the committee last Monday evening. (Of course he will not think of serving another year.)

Solomon has been at home about two weeks, and expects to start on another trip Monday morning. We haven't seen much of him since he came home, but we are expecting all the family here to dinner to-morrow.

We have had a good deal of cold weather this winter, and it is still very cold. It was 12 degrees above this morning, which we think is pretty cold. I went out Thursday for the first time since I hurt my arm, and it was just three weeks.

I miss my out-door exercise very much. We have had company here almost all the week, and that was the reason that I did not write earlier in the week as I intended.

Eben and Sarah came Wednesday and spent the day. They thought they couldn't leave home overnight very well. Aunt Azubah came Wednesday morning also though we were not expecting her this week. She and Lizzie were here two nights and Aunt Azubah stayed till yesterday afternoon.

Carrie and Helen were here to dinner. Mary Kenney called yesterday afternoon. She will probably be here two or three days next week. Father wished me to say that the check came all right.

I am glad to think that you have everything about you, so convenient and comfortable, and also that you are doing so well in your business. Write soon

Much love to Cora and yourself.

from Mother

FORSTER SCHOOL, SOMERVILLE, MASS.

Somerville, Apr. 10, 1887

My dear son

I received your last letter about two weeks ago, and it will not wait longer before answering it.

Cora's to father was received the last week. I wish he could hear from you every week.

Last Sunday morning the snow was two or three feet deep in places. To-day it is just like summer; about one Oclock the thermometer stood at 80 or 82 degrees out to our back door in the shade. We had our doors and windows open when we were eating dinner about two Oclock.

Mary Kenney is here to-day. She came Friday afternoon. She will probably go down to Charlestown again to-morrow.

Solomon got home a week ago. He expects to go to New Bedford Monday and Tuesday of this week. He is calculating to stay at home till after the wedding.

I suppose you have received your invitation. We wish so much that you and Cora could be there. The ceremony will be at eight Oclock, Wednesday evening, the twentieth.

We are very anxious to have Mary come on this summer. We are sure that she needs the change, and that it would do her ever so much good. It would be a nice thing for Annie too, and she would enjoy it so much. If you can see your way clear to do so, I hope you will try to come home in the fall. Cora would enjoy it I think perhaps as much as you. I expect you will find plenty of work to do on your place to keep you busy all the Spring.

I should very much like to visit you and see just how every thing looks, in and about your home.

You know I never saw the inside of the house. Mary promised to describe your home to us, after she visited you, but I suppose she forgot all about it. We are all very well.

My arm is gaining gradually, but I think it will not be quite well for sometime. Emily is having a vacation of a week or two. She has two pupils now, and some prospect of another.

Give my dear love to Cora.

Try to write one a week, can't you?

With many longings to see you and a great deal of love,

I am your Affectionate Mother.

A. G. Davis

W. H. HODGKIN'S SCHOOL,
West Somerville Mass.

Somerville May 8, 1887

My dear son

Your letter was received the first of this week, but we have all been so busy with our house cleaning that we have not had time to write before. I know that someone ought to have written you after the wedding, and am sorry that we neglected to do so.

Annie wrote all the particulars to Mary about the wedding and I suppose you have seen the letter, as Mary wrote us that you were at Dover a week ago last Saturday.

It was a very pleasant wedding and much more social than if there had been a larger number invited. I think they had quite a good many presents considering how few were invited. They have had a few more since the wedding. The spoons you gave were a very nice and useful present. Since Annie wrote I think Albert Sargent sent in two nice table spoons. This last week they have had a silver lettuce fork from Blanche Ellis and a half a dozzen *(sic)* coffee cups and saucers from Mattie's Sunday school class. They have their rooms furnished very nice and prettily and they are well satisfied with their boarding place. It seems very pleasant there. It seems nice to have Thomas so near where we can see him every day.

I wish that you could live as near. Thomas was invited to Mr. Guild's last Thursday evening to dinner. There were two gentlemen there from Scotland, two twin brothers, very distant reletives *(sic)* of Mr. Guild of the same name. Thomas saw one of the brothers, and their father when he was in Dundee. The old gentleman invited him to his house at Broughty Ferry one evening to take dinner. Mr. Guild had heard of that family there and wished for Thomas to find them out and get what information he could of their ancestry.

Josie with Carrie and Helen went down to Sandwich last Monday afternoon. Carrie was set on going to get the Arbutus. They stayed till Friday afternoon, and came home loaded with the sweet blossoms. It was fresh and beautiful when they got it here. They came right here to supper and Helen stayed all night. Father wishes me to say that your letter was received.

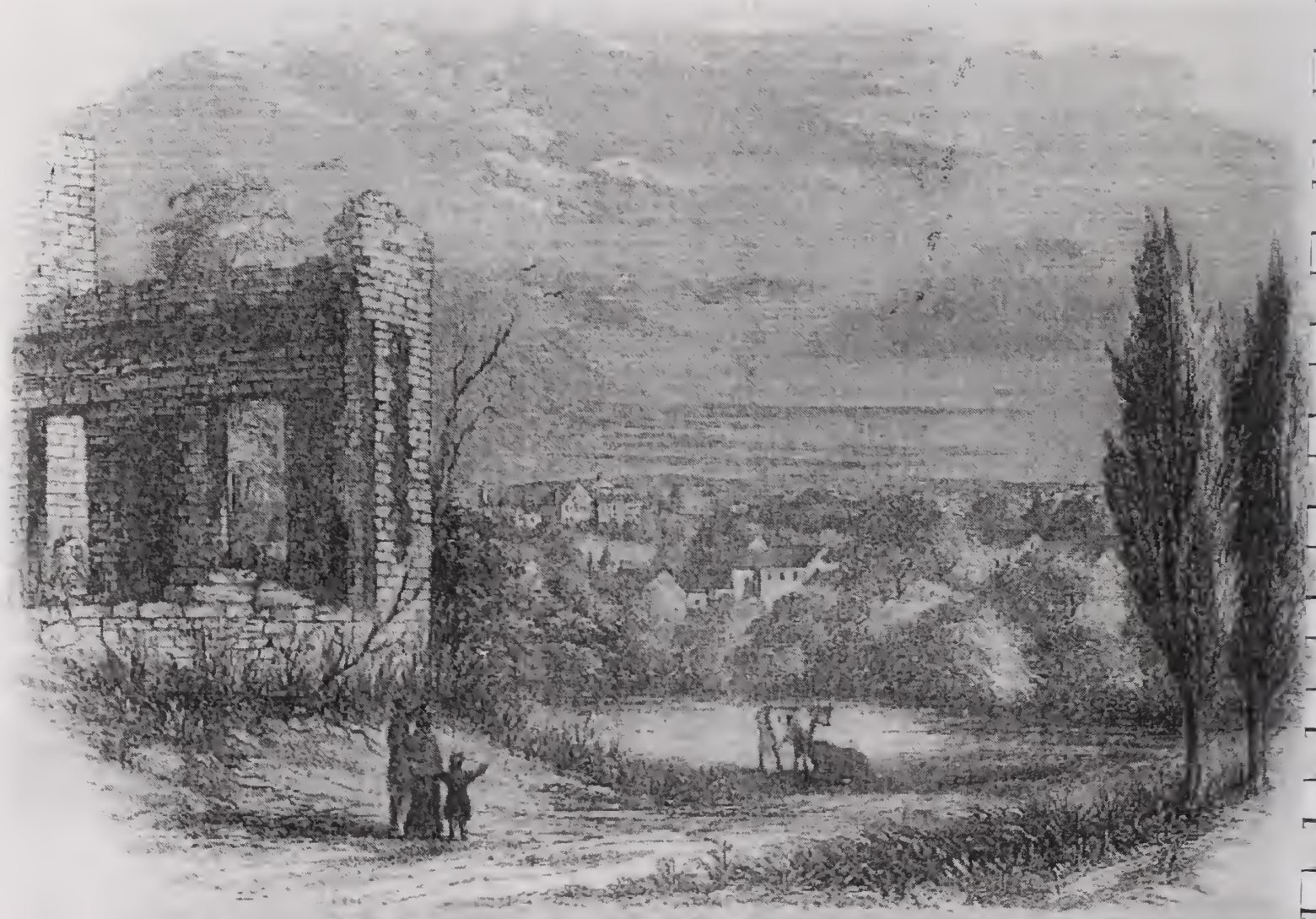
You must be very busy I know making improvements on your place. I think it a good thing your having bought more land. It isn't pleasant having neighbors too near. I think you will have a very nice place there, when you get it fixed to your mind.

Try to write every week if it is possible.

With love to Cora and yourself.

I remain your Affect. Mother

A. G. Davis



VIEW OF SOMERVILLE, MASS., FROM THE SITE OF THE DECLINE (SEWALL'S)

Somerville June 19, 1887

My dear son

We were glad enough to get a letter from you again, after so long a time.

I had almost given up hopes of having any more letters, but we were not aware of its being such a busy time with you.

I wanted to write to you last week but wrote to Mary and so put you off till this week. We had a letter from Mary about the same time that we received yours, and have not heard from her since. We are expecting Emerson the last of this month. We have been hoping that Annie would come with him, but Mary says in her last letter that she is hesitating about letting her come. If Annie doesn't come I am afraid that Mary will give up the whole thing and that we shall not see her here this summer. It seems as if she might come by leaving Louis and Alice. If Annie comes with her father, even if Mary should decide not to come, I think there would be someone for Annie to go home with in the fall.

I am in hopes that you and Cora may come sometime this fall. I can't give up the hope of seeing you here.

There *(sic)* expecting Mrs. Bigelow and Sydney this week, and they will be going home in September. You are still making improvements on your place, and I expect it is already looking very nice. It must keep you busy, but I suppose you enjoy having a place of your own to work on. Solomon was away last week and got home Friday evening. He is not expecting to go away again till the first of August.

We are having cool weather most of the time, but once in a while we have a hot day. It is getting very dry and rain is much needed. Our roses are beautiful this year. We have a good many and the rose bushes are looking better than they have for a long time.

Thomas and Mattie came to supper yesterday so as to have some of our brown bread and beans. It was the firs time they had been here to a meal since they were married. They seemed to enjoy it. Since I began to write this letter, father and I have been up to Solomon's. We started about quarter past four, and got back home again at a quarter to six. Father has quite a bad cold, taken by riding in an open horse car after having been in a perspiration. It is a good deal in his head, but he had some cough. I think father has got through his years work remarkably well. He does not seem to be as tired, as he usually is at the close of the school year. Schools close next Wednesday.

You will be surprised to hear that Mr. Watson is dead. He was sick only about two days. He was taken last Monday with a severe head ache and died of apoplexy Wednesday afternoon. He will be very much missed. Try to write every week. Hope this will find you both well.

With much love. Your affectionate Mother.

Anna G. Davis

Winter Hill Station, Somerville, Mass.

Somerville July 10, 1887

My dear son

Yours of the 29th was duly received, and though I have written to you since I have to Mary, still I feel inclined to write to you to-day. I suppose that Cora has received fathers letter that he wrote last Monday. Emerson came Friday night.

Father went over to the depot to meet him, and they didn't get here till about eleven Oclock. Then Emerson ate supper and there was so much to talk about, that we didn't get to bed till one Oclock. He started early the next morning for Maine, so that we had very little time to see him. He speaks discouragingly of Mary's coming East this summer and we have now given up all hopes of it. We felt more anxious for her to come this year, for even if our lives should all be spared, I am afraid we shall not be so well situated, to have her come at a future time, as father and Solomon are planning for the two families to live together here. I hear so little that I don't know much about their plans, but Annie told me that they were talking of Solomon coming here this fall.

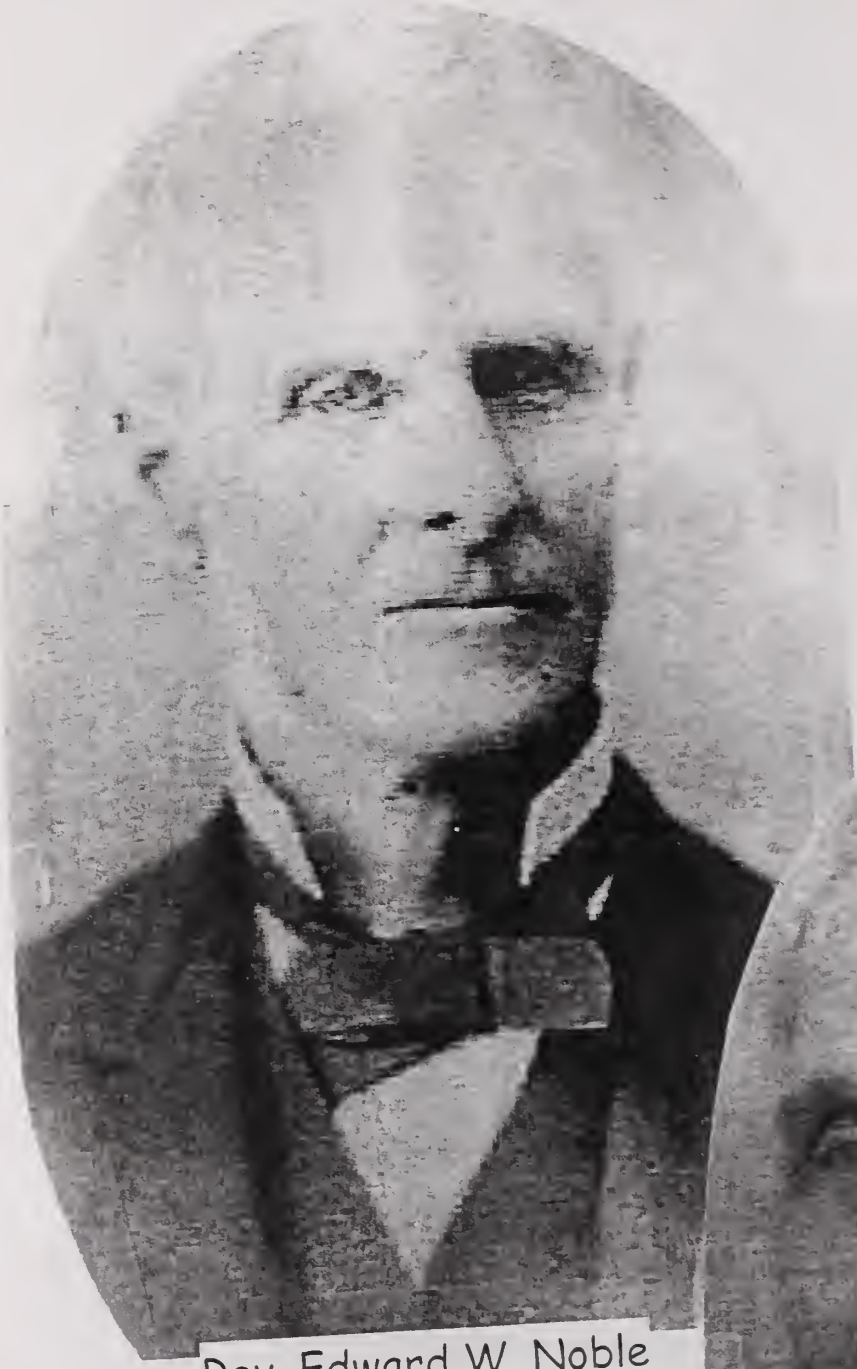
I don't see hardly how we can all be accomodated *(sic)* here, but if Solomon and Josie are willing to come, and it is father's wish for them to, I shall not oppose it. We all went up to Solomon's Monday afternoon (the fourth) and Thomas and Mattie. Thomas Delano and his family were there. Solomon sent up quite a number of balloons, in the afternoon, and some of them were quite successful. In the evening they had fireworks and some were very pretty.

Solomon expects to go away again the first of August, and Josie and the children will go away somewhere in the country. I think they have not decided yet where they will go. We have had very hot weather here, for nearly two weeks, and we are so penned in now, that I greatly long sometimes to go into the country, but I suppose we shall not be able to. It seems since that block was put up, and the trees grown in around the neighborhood as if we do not get so much air as we used to. I was glad to hear through Emerson, that you were looking so well, and that you were so happy in your new home. I feel perfectly easy about you now. I feel that you have someone to care for you, and make your home pleasant for you. Give my dear love to Cora and tell her I thank her for all she does for you. I do hope that you and Cora will be able to make us a visit this fall. You must try to come if you can possibly leave your business. I should be much pleased to receive a letter from Cora. I wish she wouldn't wait for me to write first, and I hope you will write often.

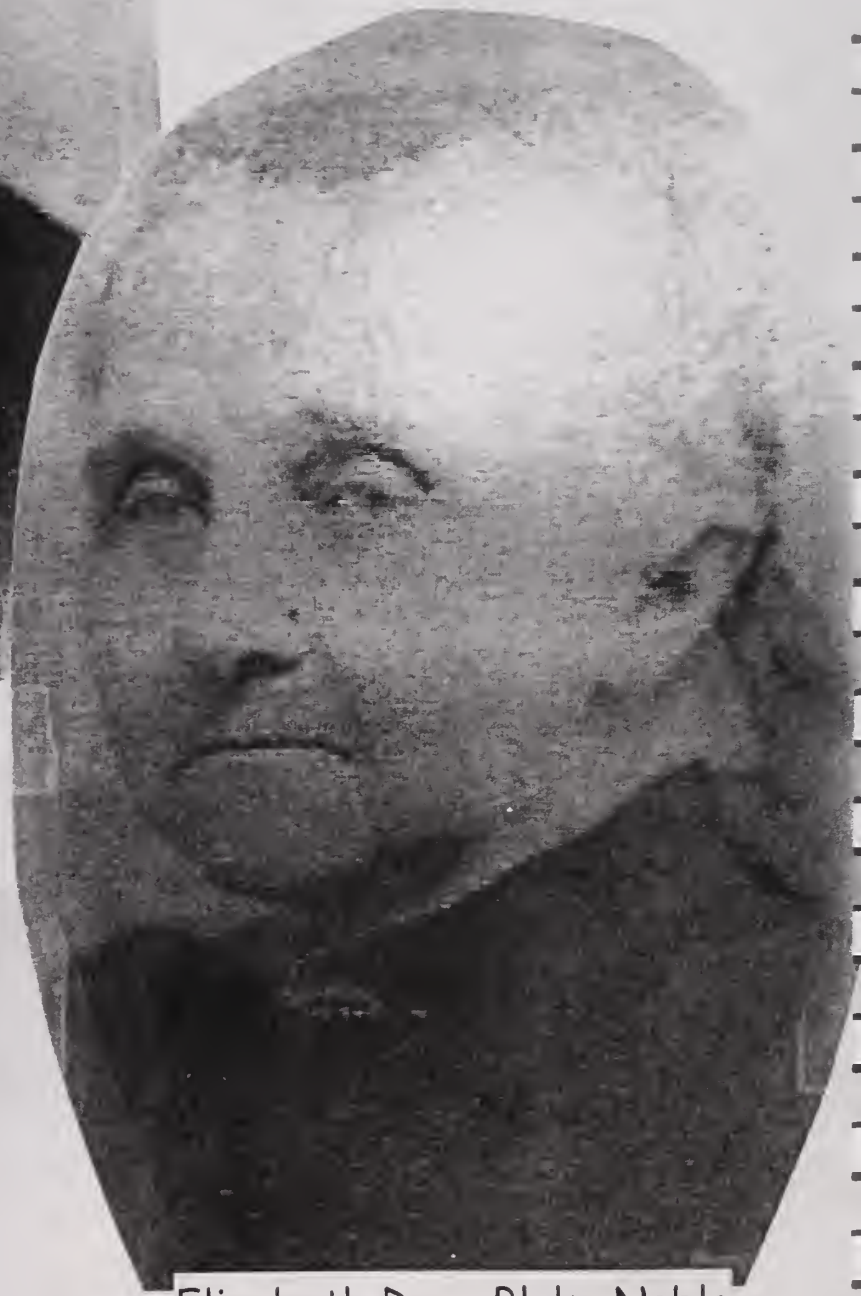
We are all quite well.

Your affect. Mother

A, G. Davis



Rev. Edward W. Noble



Elizabeth Dyer Blake Noble

Somerville Aug. 29, 1887

My dear son

Your letter of July 15 has remained unanswered to the present time. I know that I have been very negligent about writing, but it seemed to require too much effort to write letters during the not weather. I think have not written more than two or three letters the last two months.

Yours to father and Cora's to us jointly were received. We are always glad to hear from you, and especially to hear of your welfare. We did not receive any letters from Dover last week. We have had what we consider a very hot summer, but it has not been so hot here, as it has been out West.

The weather last week has been very cool. The first of the week was very stormy, but since Wednesday it has been bright and beautiful. To-day is a lovely day and a little warmer.

It must seem nice to have a garden of your own, and to enjoy the fruits of your labor.

It gives me pleasure to know that you have so many nice and pleasant things about your home. I expect you have made great improvement on your place since we saw it last summer. You were wise not to work out in the heat. It would be rash for you to do so. It must be delightful and restful to ride out in the cool of the evening, after some of those hot days.

Father and I took a horse car ride Saturday afternoon out to Franklin Park, Oakland Garden is right there too, but we did not go in there. We got out and went into the Park and stopped a little while, but we didn't have time to stop long. It is beautiful there.

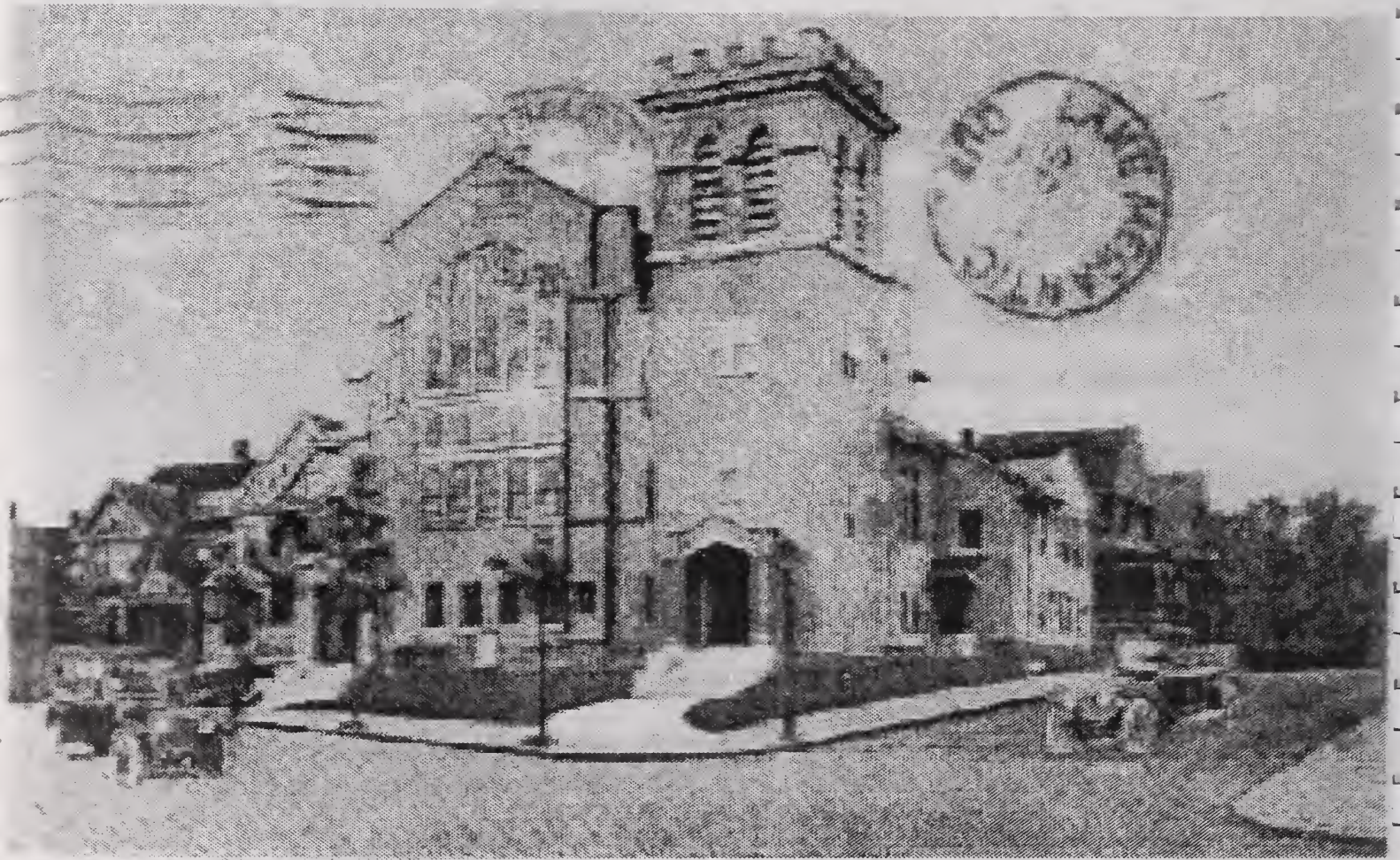
The Park is very large and uncultivated. Sarah got home last Tuesday afternoon. Her appetite is much improved and the trip seems to have done her a great deal of good. Solomon got home Thursday morning. He is suffering from hay fever, as he always does at this season of the year. Annie went to Mr. Noble's Friday afternoon, and stayed until Saturday afternoon. Mr. Noble's eyesight has improved considerably. Father and I are invited there Wednesday to spend the day.

Emily has stayed right at home about all the time. She has one pupil now. We are very sorry that you have given up all thoughts of coming East this fall. After Emerson was here we gave up all thoughts of Mary's coming, but we had hoped you would be able to come.

Hope this finds you both well. With much love to and Cora.

Am as ever your loving

Mother A. G. Davis



Somerville Oct. 3, 1887

My dear son

Your letter to Annie was received Friday morning with the draft enclosed. We were glad to hear from you again. We also had a letter from Mary at the same time.

A few lines from Emerson previously had informed us that Louis was making you another visit. It is very nice for the children to have somewhere to go for a change.

You must have been pretty lonesome while Cora was away. Did you keep house while she was gone?

We were sorry to miss seeing Mr. and Mrs. Ingham. Mr. Ingham was intending to come and take dinner with us one day, but he didn't feel able to the day that he was set to come. Mary wrote that they were expecting them back last Thursday. I do so wish Joshua that you could come East, and make us a visit this fall. Don't you think that it would be possible for you to come?

Thomas and Mattie took a short trip to the mountains last week. They started Thursday morning and arrived at Crawfords about three and stopped there Thursday night. The next morning took a mountain wagon and rode to the Flume about six miles. Came back to North Conway Friday and returned home Saturday afternoon arriving about 9 Oclock. They intended to stay a day or two longer, but it threatened a storm Saturday, so they thought they had rather come home. They said they had a nice time. Thomas was here this forenoon gathering pears. We have quite a good many pears this year, and we wish so much that you and Mary's family could have some of them.

I hope that father will send you some when we gather the later ones. Those we gathered to-day were the Andrews pear and that small early pear by the grape vine, and we had those sweet pears on the tall tree gathered. We were afraid there might come a hard wind and blow them off, so that we should lose them. We had a few nice peaches, but the greater part were poor. If the frost keeps off we hope to have some grapes.

If I could have my choice, I would rather have your nice vegetable garden and have less fruit. If you can see your way clear to come home this fall, be sure and some.

With many longings to see you and love to both you and Cora I am your Affect.

Mother

Helen & Caroline "Carrie" Davis
November, 17, 1877

Somerville Dec. 18, 1887

My dear son

Your letter came Thursday morning and we were very glad to her from you again. We had been looking for a letter for a long time. I suppose your time is pretty well taken up, and one is apt to put off letter writing. I know from experience. I think I have not written you since Thanksgiving, though I wrote you just before.

Annie has written you since, so you know how we spent the day. We had a very pleasant time to Solomon's, and if you and Mary could only have been there it would have been a very happy time. You had quite a family to spend Thanksgiving with you. Enough to make quite a merry company. Mary has not written how they enjoyed their Thanksgiving but we know that they intended to go to Mr. Ingham's to dinner.

Christmas is just at hand, and we are expecting that Solomon and Thomas will spend the day with us. Monday will be Christmas day. I wish so much that you could be with us. We cannot do much in the way of making presents, at least I shall not be able to.

Helen and three other little girls have been getting up a little fair in aid of the "fresh air fund." It was held at Solomon's last Wednesday, from five to ten. It proved to be quite a success. They made a clear gain of fifty dollars. Of course the friends of each did what they could to help them. We all contributed something, and the girls made cake and cornballs. They had five dozen cornballs and they were all gone before seven Oclock. One little boy ate six. They charged 2 cents apiece. They were all gone before Thomas got there, but they saved one for him, and he paid five cts for it. They had cake and icecream. Received pay for icecream, but cake was thrown in. Solomon had Mr. Joe Brown there to decorate the rooms.

I went up there just after dinner to see the things. The girls all went in the evening. It was a lovely day and did not seem at all like winter. There were quite a good many there more than they could possibly have expected.

We have been having a mild spell of weather, but to-day there is a change. When I got up this morning I saw snow for the first time this season. It is snowing now, but has gathered but little.

Aunt Betsey came Thursday forenoon, and went back to West Somerville Friday afternoon. Mr. Cook had a cold and didn't come. They are expecting to stay up here this winter. I shall try to write to Cora soon. All are well.

With much love to you both.

Your Affect. Mother

A. G. Davis

Do try to write oftener.

English High School, Public Library and Town Hall, Somerville, Mass.

Somerville Jan. 15, 1888

My dear children

I see by the date that it had been a long time since we received Cora's letter. It ought to have been answered before, and though I hardly think Joshua deserving of a letter, still I will address this to you both.

It has been four weeks or more since we have heard anything from you. Mary wrote us that you were not at Dover to Christmas, so that you probably spent the day alone.

Father and Annie have both written since Christmas, so that I can not tell you anything new about it.

Father and I went up to Solomon's to dinner, a week ago last Friday. Mr. and Mrs. Noble, Eben and Sarah, and Aunt Azubah were there. Mrs. Knight was invited, but she had company and couldn't go. We had a very pleasant visit. They have had improvements made in the house, so that it seems real nice there now. Solomon is expecting to go away again to-morrow. I always dread this winter trip for him.

Mr. Dennen preached for us last Sunday, and he came again Thursday evening to the young people meeting. He was at Solomon's to supper, and they called here, before they went to meeting. He went home with Solomon to spend the night. We have cold or stormy weather now most of the time, but now and then a pleasant day.

Yesterday was a beautiful day, but underfoot very slippery. To-day it is raining and misty. Father has had a cold and cough now for about two weeks. He did not go to church last Sunday nor to-day, though he has not stayed in much for it, during week days. I think he is not very careful, and keeps getting more cold.

Mary Kenney came up to Mrs. Baker's last Friday. She will probably stop sometime. We haven't seen her yet.

I am glad that your horse has got rid of that habit of starting too soon. I think that was her only fault was it not? What did you do to break her of it?

I wish you would write oftener Joshua. Dec. 11 was the date of your last.

I certainly hope we shall have a letter before you receive this. I hardly dare think how much I want to see you or how improbable it is that I shall ever see you in your new home.

May God bless, and keep you my dear children. With dearest love to you both.

Mother

Davis Square
Somerville, Mass
1907

Somerville Feb. 26th, 1888

My dear son

I think you did not get any letter from home last week.

Annie and Emily say they have received no letters from you since they wrote you. I asked Sarah to write to-day, but I don't think she intends to, so I fear you will not get any letter this week unless I write myself. I received your letter of February 8th, which has not been answered. Annie is down to Mrs. Bakers today.

Sunday March 4th

I commenced this letter last Sunday, and got so far, when Thomas and Mattie came in and it was so late when they went, that I thought I should not have time to finish it, so left it for another time.

Monday morning we had a letter from Eben. saying that he and Sarah were coming here Tuesday to make us a visit so that we did not have much time to spare with making preparations for them.

They stayed till Wednesday afternoon.

That afternoon Annie and Mary Kenney went up to West Somerville to see Aunt Betsey Cook. Annie went about two weeks ago, but Aunt Betsey had gone to Boston so that she didn't see her. They found her at home this time, and we are expecting her and Mr. Cook here Wednesday forenoon.

Aunt Betsey isn't very well, she is troubled with asthma. Carrie and Helen were here Thursday night.

Solomon started on his spring trip Monday afternoon. I don't think Solomon seems as well as usual this winter. He is troubled with asthma when he goes out in the cold, to walk any distance. I think it is bad for him to have to take those winter trips. I was anxious about him all the time he was gone. Laura Wing is to Solomon's making a long visit.

Father received your letter yesterday morning with the draft.

I noticed that he answered it in the afternoon, but don't think he wrote much of a letter. Perhaps he wrote you that his time would be up the first of May. *(in Legislature of Mass. E.D.)* Mr. Hughes is gaining slowly, and Aunt Maria is better. I remembered that it was your birthday last Friday. It is a cold, wintry, March day to-day. With few exceptions February was a very pleasant month. Do write oftener Joshua.

With love to you both from

Mother

Elizabeth B. Paine
"Lizzie"

Somerville March 25, 1888

My dear son

Received your letter last Monday and one from Mary at the same time. Mary has decided to come East, and think she will start the last of April. The 23. is the day she has set, if all goes well. She had written to Abbie Stewart to come and keep house for her, while she is away, but had not received any answer before she wrote.

She is going to take Annie and the two youngest children with her, and expects to stay six weeks or so, returning sometime the first of June.

I am glad that you have decided to come and make a visit this summer. Have you thought yet when it will be the best time for you to leave your business to come?

Solomon got home Friday afternoon. His health is not very good, though he says he feels better than when he was at home before. We are having unusually cold weather for the season. the thermometer being about fourteen the last two mornings. March has been a hard month. A week ago last Monday occurred, what will always be remembered as the great snowstorm of 1888. It was not so severe in Boston and vicinity, but it was felt more severely in N. York, Philadelphia, and the Eastern states and even in some of the Southern states.

There was also a severe storm in Springfield at the same time. Thomas was in New York at the time. He left Boston Sunday night on the half past ten train, expecting to arrive at N. Y. at seven. They met the storm, and did not get in till eleven. He was snowbound there, and the road was not opened so that he could go to Philadelphia (where he also had business) till Thursday afternoon. He didn't get home till Sunday morning. When he left home he did not expect to be gone more than three or four days.

Aunt Betsey and Mr. Cook went home last Tuesday. I had a letter from Aunt Betsey saying they were well. Aunt Azubah and Lizzie were here last week and stayed two nights. Aunt Maria is still quite feeble.

Mr. Hughes is not as well, as when I wrote before. They had Dr. Bowditch there in consultation a week ago Friday and he does not give them any encouragement. He has heart disease. Shall expect another letter from you soon. Hope this finds you both well.

Your loving Mother

A. G. Davis

Somerville Journal
April 21, 1888

Complimentary to Joshua H. Davis

The regular meeting and dinner of the Somerville School-masters' Club at Young's Hotel, last Tuesday, was made complimentary to its president, Mr. Joshua H. Davis, the retiring superintendent of schools in this city.

The banquet was served in one of the elegant parlors of this famous house, and around the board were gathered fourteen of the present and past school-masters of the city, and members of the club.

At the conclusion of the feast Mr. George L. Baxter, master of the High School, rose, and in behalf of the club, addressed Mr. Davis. In a most felicitous way he reviewed his long service in connection with the schools of Somerville. He spoke of his high and honored career as citizen and superintendent of schools; of the deep and affectionate regard in which he is held by all the teachers of the city; of the universal regret at parting with him officially; and lastly, of the magnificent crown of all his labors, the monument that shall for long years tell of his wisdom and care--the schools of Somerville.

As he closed his speech Mr. Baxter presented to Mr. Davis, as a gift from the club, as beautiful gold-headed cane. The wood of which the cane is made came from a solid oaken timber taken from the wreck of the old British man-of-war Somerset, famous in the Revolutionary War, and wrecked in 1778 on Cape Cod, not far from Mr. Davis's early home.

Laboring under great emotion, Mr. Davis rose, in the midst of prolonged applause, to reply. It was some moments before he could command his voice, but at length he found words, and those listening knew he was speaking from the depths of his heart, and he knew he was speaking to those who honored and loved him.

At the conclusion of Mr. Davis's speech Mr. Frank M. Hawes, sub-master of the High School, with a few introductory words, read the following original sonnet:--

To Joshua H. Davis

Horace, great master of the Roman lyre,
In classic line that time has kept so well,
Oft sings the virtue and the magic spell
Of wine Falernian, or the grape of Chia,
Mellowed by years to suit the heart's desire
Of epicures, who of its praises tell,
And love to catch of garlands sweet the smell
Which from the crowned beakers doth aspire.
But time doth mellow other things than wine;
Our hearts, dear friend, have felt his touch, nor can
Sweet memories, affections, yours and mine,--
The flowers that crown the cup,--soon fade away
Oh, may men say of my life, as of thine,
"Time the great ripener, is praised to-day."

The formalities of the evening closed with the unanimous election of Mr. Davis as an honorary member of the club, coupled with an invitation to be its guest at the monthly meetings whenever possible.

Somerville Apr. 22, 1888

My dear son

It seems a long time since we received any letter from you, and though I have written you since receiving your letter. I will write a few lines this afternoon.

We expect that you will be able to arrange your affairs, so as to come while Mary is here. On many accounts it will be very pleasant for you both to be here at the same time. I should like so much to have our family all together again. And then it will be so nice for Mary to have your company when she returns. You must come as early as you can, so as to make your visit as long as possible.

I am sorry to have to communicate to you the sad news of the death of Josie's father.

He was fatally injured in attempting to board a horse car, to return home from Boston Monday afternoon. We sent you the journal which will give you the particulars.

Solomon started from home Monday on one of his long trips. Josie sent him a telegram Monday night. He returned Tuesday or Wednesday and stayed at home till after the funeral, which was Thursday afternoon, leaving home again Thursday night.

We hear to-day that Carrie has the mumps.

Last Tuesday evening the school masters club had a supper at Youngs, complimentiry *(sic)* to father.

All members were present besides others that were formerly members. They had an extra nice supper for the occasion and after that presented father an elegant gold-headed cane. You will see particulars in journal. And besides, the teachers are going to make him a present, but doesn't know anything about it.

Mr. Baxter called here to see if we thought father would feel sensitive about receiving a present in gold. Don't mention it in your letters till you hear.

We are anticipating a good deal of pleasure from yours and Cora's visit. Hope you are both well. May we not expect a letter soon? Much love to you both from Mother.

A. G. Davis

At the Family Reunion at the house of Levi F. S. Davis, on the evening of June 13, 1888, I made the following statement:

The joy of this interesting occasion is sobered by the remembrance of that large company of loved ones, whose companionship has blessed our lives, but "who now sleep in the noiseless bed of rest." It is true, doubtless, of most families, that those who tread the earth are less than those "who slumber in its bosom."

I am unable to trace my ancestry beyond my grand parents, three of whom I remember. They were all born between 1740 and 1750, in the colonial days and during the reign of George II, King of England, and were married between 1765 and 1770, in the reign of George III of Revolutionary memory. The last of this generation, my paternal grandmother died December 18, 1828, aged 81 years.

To these grand-parents were born six sons and four daughters. To these were added, by marriage one son and five daughters, making sixteen for the second generation. The last of this generation, Uncle James W. Davis, died Aug. 11, 1864, aged 94 years.

My father, Ebenezer Lombard Davis, was born August 3, 1773, the year of the "Boston Tea Party." My mother Azubah Hinckley, was born January 5, 1777, the year of Burgoyne's surrender at Saratoga.

To the second generation were added by marriage, twenty sons and nine daughters, making fifty-eight of the third generation, of which I am a member. Of this generation, nine only remain.

At the time of my earliest recollection, my entire circle of relatives, then living, numbered forty-two; grandparents, three; parents, two; uncles, four; aunts, four; cousins, twenty-two; brothers, four; sisters, three. Of that number, only five remain.

To the third generation were born, forty-four sons and thirty-eight daughters. To these have been added, by marriage, twenty-six sons and thirty-eight daughters; making a total of one hundred and forty-six of the fourth generation. I cannot give the numbers of the fifth and sixth generations.

We may justly indulge in feelings of complacency as we review our family history. The men and women of the first generation were sound in health and character. The natural branches have retained the soundness of the parent tree, and the wild branches which have been grafted on were selected with caution and sound judgment; hence, in all the successive generations, none have arisen to bring dishonor upon our fair family tree.

Joshua H. Davis, Sr.

Somerville June 25, 1888

My dear son Joshua

It was very hard to part with you all, and have you go away so far. And it was a dreadful lonesome house, that we came back to, that day after we left you. It seemed as if it was almost more than I could bear to part with so many dear ones, all at once. And somehow your visit didn't seem as satisfactory as I could have wished.

It seemed so short, and there was so much confusion, and so much going on, that it didn't seem as if I had hardly seen you. I thought of a good many things, I wanted to say and didn't after you had gone. I wish you could have stayed longer on Cora's account. She had just begun to get acquainted, and she did not really have time to rest from her journey. Cora doesn't look very strong but I hope she will feel better for her trip East, after she gets rested from the journey.

It is very pleasing to us to know that you have such a dear, sweet wife, and a pleasant happy home to go to, and if it was not so far off so that we could go and see you some times, should be more reconciled.

Trust you found all right in your business, and in your home.

We had a few lines from Emerson this morning assuring us of your safe arrival at Dover in due time. and that you and Cora stopped off and were driving home.

We had very cool weather from the time you left, till Friday morning when it suddenly grew warm, Friday proving a very warm day and Saturday still warmer, being the hottest day in Boston that had been known in June, for eighteen years, I think Thomas said. It was dreadful hot here Saturday night. We had a tempest and showers in the evening but it didn't seem to cool the air in the least. But Sunday morning between nine and ten the wind changed to the East, and brought relief. We were afraid that you had the heat Wednesday, as we noticed that the thermometer was at eighty in Chicago Wednesday night.

Wednesday morning must have been a very long and tedious day to you all. We shall hope to have a letter from you tomorrow or soon, telling us of your journey, and how you found things at home. I do hope you will write often, and that Cora will write too.

My dearest love to you both my dear children

from Mother

MAGOUN SQ., SOMERVILLE, MASS.

Somerville July 22, 1888

My dear Daughter

I received Joshua's letter in due time, but he didn't mention any thing about your health or his own. And indeed, I have not heard one word from you, since you went home.

I hope you have got nicely rested before now, and that you are feeling better for your trip East. I can hardly realize that you have been here. It seems almost like a dream. You stayed such a little while, and our family was so large, and there was necessarily so much confusion, and so much going and coming, that it seemed as if I had hardly seem you.

It seemed, as if when you had just began to get a little acquainted, you had to go. I am so sorry that you couldn't have stayed longer, for we know, that in the nature of things, that there cannot be many more such meetings for us here. I see from Joshua's letter, that you have been having some very warm weather. We have been having cool weather with few exceptions since you went home. I suppose your vines have been yielding both fruits and vegetables, we would enjoy some of your strawberries, and nice peas and beans, fresh from the vines. It is so nice for one to raise such things of their own. You and Joshua must also enjoy your daily evening ride very much. Joshua wrote that you haven't been to Dover, since you returned home.

We had a letter from Mary Friday. She is still alone, and I was very sorry to her that her girl is not coming back to her again. She liked her so much. I am afraid she will not find another to suit her so well. Their new carriage had come, and I think it likely they will all ride over to Plainview before long.

All the girls have been to Newton on a visit the last week. Emily and Mable Dyer came Tuesday afternoon, and invited them to come Wednesday and stay till Saturday. Annie came home Friday night but Emily and Sarah didn't get home till Saturday evening.

As we were alone, Mrs. Knight insisted upon it, that Father and I come there to dinner Thursday, and we finally spent the day there. It seemed very lonesome for the girls all to be gone. One day week before last Mrs. Knight invited us to Winchester to see Josie's house. After we had looked all over the house, a carriage came which she had ordered, and took us to ride all around the town. We had a splendid ride of about two hours. Hadn't Joshua received the photographs when he wrote? We like our oil stove very much. It works splendidly.

Solomon feels as if he was much benefitted by his trip on the Cape. He is expecting to leave home, on his four or five weeks business trip to-morrow. Though this letter is addressed to you, of course, it is for you both as all my letters are. Hope this will find you both well. Be sure and let us know when you write, just how you are, and have been since you got home. Shall hope to hear from you soon. With much love to you both my dear children, I am still

Your Affect. Mother
A. G. Davis

We would like to know if we can distribute the pictures. We all think them excellent.

Azubah Davis Paine
"Aunt Azubah"

Somerville Aug. 26, 1888

My dear son

I think it has been a good while since I have written to you, but then I wrote to Cora soon after receiving a letter from you.

I thank her for her nice letter, and should be glad to have her write oftener. There does not seem to be anything very special to write about, as I suppose Emily wrote everything worth recording last week.

The company that came stayed till late Thursday afternoon. Thursday evening Solomon and Josie came down here. It was the first time that Solomon had been here, since he came home. Aunt Azubah came here Tuesday afternoon and stayed till Friday morning. She went to Freeman's and had her picture taken while she was here. Mrs. Knight has gone to Wells Me. to visit Mrs. Davis. I miss her very much.

Sarah came from Swanscott Wednesday afternoon. It seems lonesome to have Thomas and Mattie away, but expect they will be at home Wednesday. Had a letter from Mary last week. She did not mention your having been there lately. I wish Mary could get a good girl. Are they trying to find one?

Father thinks the church will not be done in time for us to have preaching, before the second week in September. We have some very cool weather, and then again very warm Friday, yesterday and to-day have been very warm days, but some days of last week seemed really like autumn, with very cool nights.

We have a good prospect of grapes if the frost keeps off, so that they have a chance to ripen, but we shall have a very few pears this year.

Peaches of poor quality are plenty this year, but real nice ones are scarce and dear. I expect you have a nice garden, and that you keep yourself very busy about your place.

Wasn't it singular about the daisies? The seed must have been sowed in with the grass seed. I am glad Cora is feeling so much better. I think the new milk will be an excellent thing for her. Try to write oftener please.

Hope this finds you both well.

Your loving Mother

A. G. Davis

Helen Davis

Somerville Oct. 1, 1888

My dear son

Your letter with draft enclosed to father has been received.

I know it has been a good while since I have written. I was intending to write last week, but Annie wrote to Cora Saturday, and I thought it not worth while to write so soon. We are, and have been having very cool weather for the season. Both Saturday and Sunday mornings the thermometer was at 36 degrees and this morning it was 34. I see by the paper this morning that they have been having cold weather and snow in some parts of N. H. and Vermont. I see that the frost has touched the grape vines, and I am almost sure, that the grapes will not ripen. The vines have never looked so well, and we have never had so many grapes before as this year.

It seems sad to have frost so early as they have in many places. It is going to make a long winter having such a cold fall. Wasn't it a little singular that you didn't have a frost in Plainview, when they had it in Dover? Plainview must be on a higher elevation, must it not?

We expect Solomon home the last of this week. His hay fever hasn't troubled him as much as usual this fall. Mrs. Tenney has gone home with Mrs. Bigelow on a visit and Thomas and Mattie are down to Mrs. Tenney's intending to stay there and keep house by themselves for a week, just to see how it seems.

I am glad to hear that you and Cora are both so well. Mary wrote that you were both looking well indeed. Father and I went over to Ebens. and stayed over Sunday two weeks ago. I should much prefer to go on weekdays, but Eben seemed anxious to have us come to spend the Sabbath, so as to have more time to see father.

We are all quite well. Emily and Sarah have colds, but nothing serious.

Father manages to keep busy about something most of the time.

Annie has just received your note and draft. I am glad that the flannel suits. I thought it was what you wanted. I think it has been a long time, since I have had a letter from you Joshua. Shall hope to have one soon. With lots of love to you both I am still your

Affect. Mother

A. G. Davis

Somerville, Nov. 1, 1888

My dear Son,

I have your letter of Oct. 27th, enclosing check for $125.

You have been advised by the Somerville Journal of the political contest in Ward one, which terminated very amicably in my favor, last Monday evening. In view of the strong sway against me, I have had but little expectation of securing the nomination.

Mr. Perkins is a comparatively young and popular man, an active politician, a prominent member of the Baptist church, and an influential member of several secret organizations.

He had the support of the political ring, including all connected with City Hall, who have, for several years managed this Ward their own way, and who were confident of their ability to continue to do so. Their defeat was a surprise and mortification to them, but they submitted gracefully and without a dissenting voice, my nomination was made unanimous; and notwithstanding the sharp and close contest, the best of feeling exists, and no sore places remain. Many of the personal friends, who from their church and social relations with Mr. Perkins felt that they were in duty bound to vote for him, are pleased with the result.

My friends were thoroughly organized and left no stone unturned; but pursued a strictly honorable course. They were splendidly conducted by nephew Levi who has been in politics long enough to know all the ins and outs and who displayed rare generalship.

From various considerations I am very much gratified with the result. Your grandfather and Uncle Ebenezer and Uncle Solomon were each a member of the House two years; Uncle Solomon a member of the Senate and the Governor's Council two years.

The position will give me honorable occupation and remove the very uncomfortable feeling of utter uselessness.

We are all very well.

Your affectionate father,

J. H. Davis

Somerville Oct. 28, 1888

My dear son

Your last was duly received. Your letter are like angels visits, few and far between, but no less welcome when they do come. Mary wrote me that you and Cora were over to Dover, Saturday the 13. We haven't seen Aunt Azubah yet, to thank her for the picture, but will do so, when we see her. The weather since the first of September has been unusually cold and unpleasant, for the season. We have a great deal of rain, and but few very bright days. The grapes didn't ripen. The leaves are off the elms, and some of the pear trees.

Father has gathered all the pears except the gloutmorceans (Have I spelt that right?) We had but a few pears this year. Wish we could have had enough so as to send you and Mary some. I have lost my taste for pears. I don't seem to care anything about them.

Solomon went away again last Tuesday, one week sooner than he had been intending to go. He expects to come home the sixth of November to vote, but to go right back again.

The caucus to-morrow evening will probably decide whether father will be elected representative. I think he would like very much to go, and would enjoy it, but we hardly expect that he will be elected. There are eighteen or twenty that have been working hard for him the last month.

To-morrow is the 49 anniversary of our marriage. It was Sarah's birthday yesterday. Thirty five years old. Just half of my age. I was seventy on my last birthday Oct. 14.

It is hard for me to realize that I am so old. Here it is almost winter again, and the summer seemed so short.

It seems to me as if we had lost September and October as we have had none of, or but little of the pleasant weather that we usually have in those months. Do write oftener Joshua and Cora too. Hope this will find you both well.

From your loving Mother

A.G. Davis

Tuesday morning

Father received your letter with draft this morning.

At the caucus last evening 496 votes were cast - the largest on record. Of these, father had 255, Mr. Perkins 239 and Mr. Curtis 2. As soon as the result was known, one of the leaders of the opposing party Mr. Butler made a motion that the nomination be made unanimous, which was carried, there being not one dissenting vote. It was a good square fight and the victory was due in large measure to Levi. He was leader and knew just what to do. The result was reached, about quarter to eleven. Thomas was the first to run home and announce it. Frank Lombard followed almost immediately, pale with excitement. "I never was so glad in my life." he said. Then came Mr. Hughes and Mr. Rowell, Levi, Nathaniel, Mr. Sargent, Thomas, Milo Crane, Bennie Snow, Charles Nickerson, Charles Powers, and Ed. Conant, with their congratulations. It was half past eleven before all was quiet.

Father is much pleased with the result of the caucus. He has said all along that he didn't much expect to be nominated. But I think he would have been a good deal disappointed if he hadn't been.

All are well.

Frances "Fanny" Noble

Somerville Nov 24, 1888

My dear son

Yours of Nov. 14 was duly received, and was glad to hear that you and Cora are both well.

We have been having some pretty cold weather the last week. To-day we are having our first snowstorm of the season. It is a real bad storm. We don't have much worse storms any time in the winter. Next week Thanksgiving. How soon it comes, and winter, too, is just upon us. Solomon got home last Thursday night. He says he hasn't been so well a fall for a long time. Solomon's folks are going to Mrs. Allen's some part of the day to Thanksgiving, and here the other. Thomas and Mattie we expect will come here to dinner. Mrs. Tenney wants them to take supper with her.

I wish that you and Cora could be here with us.

Are any of Mr. Hendricks family out of health, why do they go South to spend the winter?

Did the girls write you that Fanny Noble was going to California to spend the winter, and perhaps a year? She started last Tuesday afternoon, expecting to arrive there Tuesday morning. Our friends here are all well as usual I believe.

No more this time. I have been writing to Mary too. Love to you both my dear children.

Mother

Edith Noble

Somerville Dec. 26, 1888

My dear son

I suppose you will be expecting a letter about this time. I intended writing the day after Christmas but was prevented. We all of us, Thomas and Mattie went to Solomon's Christmas day. We have been having mild spring like weather all this week, and Christmas was one of the loveliest winter days I ever saw.

We had a very pleasant time, and only wished that you and Mary would be there with us. We didn't make very much in the way of presents. Thomas gave me a nice shopping bag, Mattie a scarf for my bureau, Annie and Sarah a cushion for the same, Emily a handkerchief, and Helen some small toilet mats.

I think the girls will write you about theirs sometime. Father expects to go to the legislature next Wednesday. I think he quite reckons on it.

We had a free ticket from the Boston & Main Railroad Co. to-day. Solomon seems very well this winter. He is expecting to go to a new place the first of January. He thinks they made him a good offer. After two years on the road, they will take him inside.

I wish I didn't have such sad news to write in this letter. Edith Noble died away from home last Thursday forenoon. She was visiting a dear friend and former schoolmate at New Britain Conn.

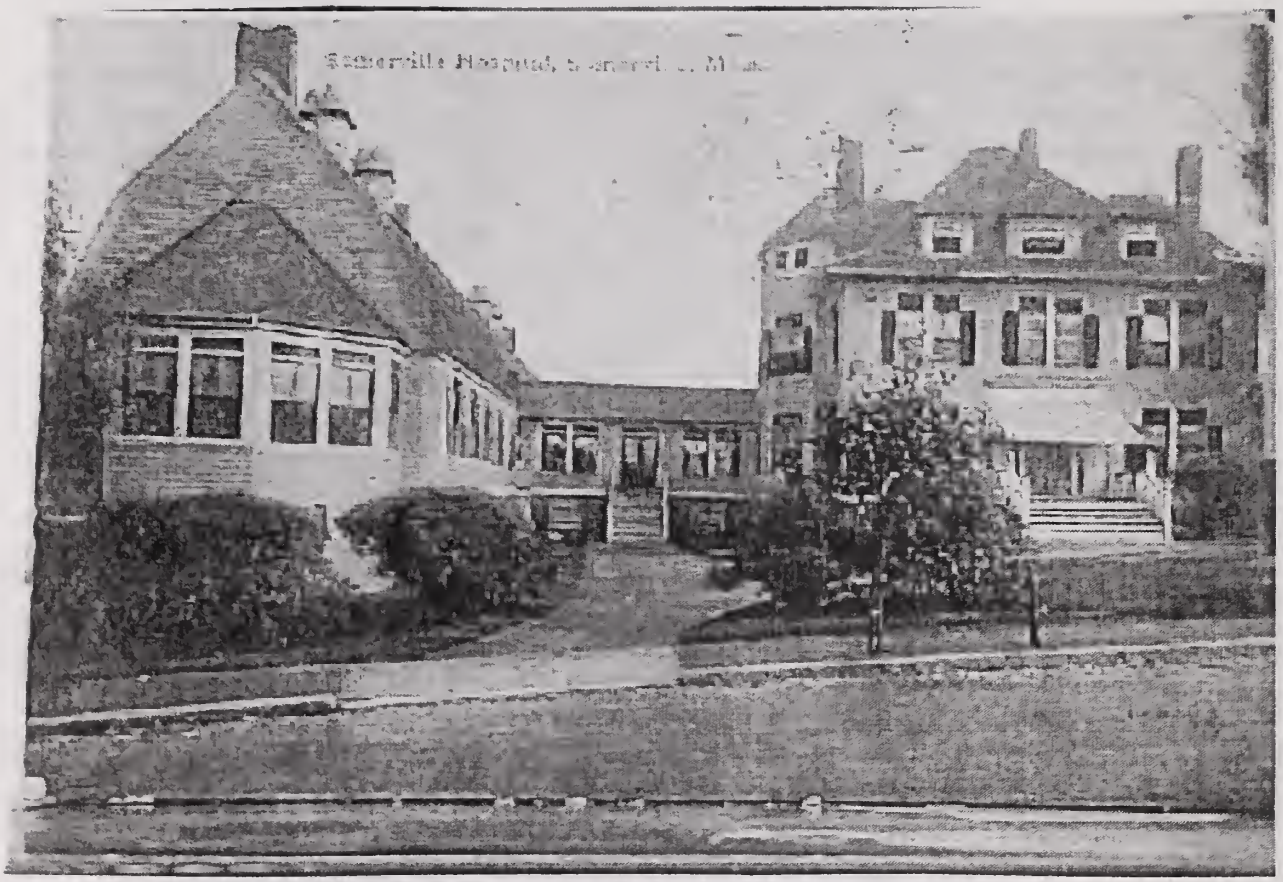
She had been feeling well, and enjoying her visit up to the Tuesday night before her death. There was some trouble on the brain. She was intending to come home Friday and that was the day she was brought home.

Father went up there Friday morning to make a call, and they had just got a letter telling them of her death.

They didn't know she was sick, and were expecting her home that day. It is hard for Mrs. Nobles folks. Edith was all they had left with them this winter, as Fanny is in California.

Isn't it singular? all three children have died away from home. Old Mrs. Mills died last week Monday, after two or three days sickness with pneumonia. We are all well, and hope this will find you and Cora both well.

Much love to you both from Mother.



Somerville March 10, 1889

My dear son

I find by the date that it is more than a month since I have written to you.

I was intending to write last week, but as father wrote Saturday I concluded to wait another week.

We do not hear from you as often as we would like to, but suppose you are busy and it seems a task for you to write evenings.

I wish we could look in upon you some evening in your pleasant, cozy home. Do you and Cora go out much evenings? You have not written of going much. We have had a remarkable pleasant winter, and it is almost gone now. The last week has been disagreeable and March like, but to-day is pleasant and nice. I hope that we will not have our winter this Spring.

Solomon went away again last Monday morning. He was not very well while he was home, but is better now.

Thomas is expecting to go to housekeeping sometime next month in Ned Lovering's house, now occupied by Mr. Winslow and another family. Mr. Winslow hires the whole house, and lets the best part of it. Thomas will take possession just as soon as the family that now occupies it moves out. They will have a parlor, dining room, and kitchen on first floor, two chambers on the second and two attic rooms.

Emily is very busy and I think improves in her work. She has sold two of her pictures lately. Lewis Lombard's wife has bought that oil painting like the one Emily gave you "the scene in Venice" and gave her twenty-five dollars for it. That was what Emily valued it. She said she had rather not sell it, unless she could get a good price for it.

Hetty also took one of Emily's water colors at three dollars, and Annie Knight is going to take one in oil at the same.

The Noble house, since it was injured by the fire has been bought by a Mr. Ansel.

Annie went down to Mrs. Baker's last night and father and Emily and Sarah have gone up to Union Sq. where there is a union service by Dr. McKenzie in the Methodist church. So I am all alone this evening.

We are all very well. Father enjoys his work. He usually goes in the morning now, and is gone most all day.

Shall hope to hear from you soon.

Love to you both from

Mother

Old Powder House
Somerville Mass.

Somerville Apr. 7, 1889

My dear Children

Your letter of Mar. 22 Joshua was received and the photographs that you sent came yesterday. There seems to be different opinions about them. Some think the expression not so good as it might be, but I think they are very good and are very much better than those you had taken here last summer. I have them set out on the sitting room mantel and go and look at them once in every little while and the more I see them the better I like them.

I am much pleased to have them as I consider them better than others that we have.

Solomon got home last Wednesday evening, and is not expecting to go away again on his long trip for two weeks. His health is better than then he went away.

Thomas is getting ready to go to housekeeping. He has been painting the kitchen floor, and has got the parlor, dining room, and front chamber carpets down, and expects to move sometime the first of the week. Probably Tuesday or Wednesday.

Thomas called after church, and Annie and I went up to the house for the first time. We think it will be very nice and pleasant there, when they get all settled.

They haven't got any furniture in yet except the dining room table and sideboard. Those are of antique oak and are very pretty. The dining room furniture is about all that they expect to have to buy with the range for the kitchen.

Emily has sold two more pictures to Mrs. Lombard. The little girl and a basket of oranges, for which she gave twenty five dollars. Kate Freeman took two of her water colors, and gave ten dollars. I wish you could see some of the work that she has done lately. They are mostly fruit pieces.

We think our Spring early this year, but your Spring is earlier than ours. We have been having a good deal of cold easterly weather lately.

Have you commenced housecleaning yet Cora? We have not yet, and I dread it ever so much. The girls had some dressmaking, and they thought they had rather get through with that first.

Am glad to hear from time to time that you re both well. Shall hope to hear from you soon.

Lovingly Mother

The Old State House
Boston

Somerville May 19, 1889

My dear son

After so long a time, we were glad to hear from you again.

I suppose you are quite busy, with your out-door work at this season of the year. And I expect your place is beginning to look pretty well now.

It is so nice for one to have a garden, and raise fruit and vegetables of their own. Your apple trees are crabs I suppose. I should think you had a good prospect of having some plums this year. Are they a nice kind of plum? Our pear trees blossomed very well, and I think we shall have more pears this year than we had last year.

We don't expect to have anything green for a good while yet. We had some asparagus once that Thomas gave us that Winsor raised on his place.

We have having very warm weather for the season. It seems more like June than May. The indications at present are a long hot summer.

The Legislature still holds it Sessions, and I don't know when they are intending to get through.

Father seems to enjoy it very much. I hardly know what he will do with himself when he gets through there.

Solomon didn't seem at all well when he left home, but writes that he is feeling much better now. He is expecting to get home the first of next week, possibly not until the 29th. Carrie's 16th birthday is the 30th. Does it seem as if Carrie could be so old?

Thomas and Mattie have got nicely settled in their new home.

Their rooms are very pleasant and I think they will enjoy housekeeping better than boarding.

Father Annie and I were up there to supper last Tuesday.

I believe all our friends are as well as usual. George and Fanny have got home. We had a letter from Mary about two weeks ago, saying that they were in for the whooping cough. We haven't heard anything from them since. I am afraid they will all have a hard time of it.

We would like very much to visit you and Mary this summer, but have decided that it is best not to think any more about it.

I wish you would write oftener. Much love to both Cora and yourself.

Mother

Ellen (Mrs. George B.) Noble
&
Isabella

George B. Noble
&
Wolcott

Somerville July 27, 1889

My dear son

It hardly seems possible that it has been more than two months since I have written to you but so it is, and it has been still longer since I have had a letter from you addressed to me. We are all as well as usual. Solomon is going away again, on one of his long trips to-day.

He seems better than he did before he went to the Cape, and I think there might be some chance for him to gain, were it not for the hay fever, which I suppose he will be sure to have come on now, very soon. I feel a good deal of anxiety about Solomon's health.

I enjoyed our short trip to the Cape better than I expected to and would like to have stayed longer, if father had been willing. Solomon took a good many photographic views that are very good indeed, while he was down there. I wish you could see them. Mattie has been away the last week on a visit in New Salem, N. H. and Thomas takes his meals here, and lodges at home.

We are having very comfortable weather for "stay at homes." Have hardly had an uncomfortable night this summer. We did not get any letter from the West last week. Cora's to Annie was the last received.

George Noble and his wife called here Friday afternoon. Mr. Noble is gaining slowly. George is intending to stay here now till sometime in Aug. Aunt Maria is more comfortable that at one time.

It would have been pleasing to us, if we could have made you and Mary a visit this summer. I have a strong desire to go West once more. I want to see you in your home and want to see you all more than I can tell. But I couldn't say anything encouraging about going, for I had the feeling all the time, as if we ought not to go. It is hard for father to give it up. I never saw him so anxious to go anywhere before.

And he didn't give it up till the last moment. He even went up to Union Square to the P. Office that morning that we left home for the Cape, thinking possibly that there might be a letter from Mary.

Is Cora feeling better than she did in the Spring? Shall hope to have a letter sometime. Hoping this will find you both well. With love.
Affectionately yours,

Mother

The Somerville Citizen
Friday, November 1, 1889

Golden Wedding

Representative **Joshua H. Davis** and his estimable wife celebrated their fiftieth anniversary on Tuesday evening by a reception to their relatives and most intimate friends to the number of 200 at their home on Myrtle street.

A golden wedding is always a marked event in the life of every family, but when one comes to consider that a fifth golden wedding anniversary has just taken place in this family, it is surely one of the most remarkable records, if not the only one in the history of our country.

The **father and mother** of Mr. Davis observed their fiftieth anniversary and lived together for 61 years.

The **sisters, Mrs. Benjamin Dyer** of Truro, Mass., and **Mrs. Isaac Gross**, late of Somerville, each celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of her wedding, and the golden wedding of the late **Capt. Ebenezer Davis** of Mt. Vernon street is well remembered as one of the most delightful of events and he with his estimable wife lived together for 62 years.

Still another sister, **Mrs. Thomas Paine** of Charlestown, who would have celebrated her golden wedding, became a widow only one month previous to that eventful day. Then there were also two fiftieth anniversaries in the family of Mrs. Davis, **her mother** having lived with a second husband for 54 years, and **her mother's sister, Mrs. David Lombard** of Truro, Mass., celebrating her fiftieth anniversary December 12, 1870. Mrs. Lombard died in 1880 and Mr. Lombard in 1888.

Joshua H. Davis was one of seven children, no death having occurred in the family until that of the oldest brother, **Solomon**, at the age of 66, making the average age of the children above 70 years. But only two in the family now survive.

Seven children have been born to Mr. Davis, all of whom are now living.

The late Rev. Charles Boyter officiated at the marriage fifty years ago, and from his widow was received a letter of congratulations containing photographs of herself and deceased husband together with the original invitation to the wedding, which will, no doubt, now be highly esteemed in the family as an heirloom.

Letters of congratulations were received from Rev. Dr. W. E. Merriman of Boston, Rev. Dr. W. S. Hubbell of Buffalo, N. Y., and from Josiah Lombard of Chicago, which were read to the great pleasure as well as merriment of the company present.

Substantial presents were received by the worthy couple, one a purse of gold of $200 in glass casket with gold trimmings, with photograph album from relatives and friends, and numerous other gold pieces came in attractive form; also a full set of Encyclopedia Britanica, large and small standard chairs in cherry, gold-lined jelly spoon, gold-lined berry spoon, pie knife and fork gold lined, one dozen silver fruit knives and one dozen nut picks.

The decorations were beautiful, consisting of yellow chrysanthemums and other flowers given by friends.

Hadley's orchestra discoursed sweet music and Weber served one of his most unexceptional suppers.

Wedding cake was served in small packages tied with yellow ribbon to all the guests as they were leaving.

Thus ended a most delightful and memorable event to the many friends whose good fortune is was to be present, and from the large circle of friends and acquaintances of Mr. and Mrs. Davis not privileged to be present upon this occasion there is one wish in which all unite, that they, with their family, will live many years in the enjoyment of health, happiness and prosperity.

Somerville, Sept. 22, 1889

My dear son,

Yours of the 12 inst. was duly received. And Solomon sent us the letter you wrote him the day after. We were very glad to hear from you. It had been so long a time since we had heard from you. Thomas was in yesterday and said he had had a letter from you too in which you did not speak so encouragingly about coming this fall. I do hope you will be able to stay with Mrs. Sylvester so that you can come.

Mary is very decided in thinking she cannot come. Father and I both thought that we would rather have only a quiet time with our own family. But if you and Mary could be here I think it would be pleasant to have our relatives meet with us. I don't like to have it made quite to much of a public affair, but Solomon will not be satisfied with anything less than to have relatives invited.

Solomon writes that he is feeling nicely, and that his hay fever has troubled him but very little since he went away. We are all quite well.

The weather has been very unsettled of late with storm and wind.

To-day is quite pleasant but very cool. I think we may expect a frost soon. Our grapes haven't ripened yet, and it depends on how long the frost keeps off whether they will or not. We have had but few ripe pears from our own trees yet, but through the kindness of neighbors have fared well for both peaches and pears. We had a few peaches on one of our trees and some of them grew to a very large size. I often wish that you and Mary could share with us. And your nice vegetables would be quite as acceptable to us.

Monday morning

Your letter to Annie was received this morning. It seems good to hear from you so often and to know that you and Cora are well. I do wish so much that you and Mary might be here to our anniversary. I can't tell you how much and if it is possible you will come Joshua won't you? I wish it was so that <u>all</u> could be here. Cora and all of Emerson's family, but I know that cannot be.

Shall hope to hear from you again soon.

Love to both Cora and yourself.

Your affectionate mother,

A. G. Davis

CENTRAL FIRE STATION, SOMERVILLE, MASS.

UNION SQUARE AND FIRE STATION, SOMERVILLE, MASS.

Somerville Dec. 2, 1889

My dear son

I think no one has written to you, since I wrote three weeks ago. The girls have been very busy, and I didn't know till yesterday that they had written. I wrote to Mary this forenoon and it is already half past two in the afternoon, but I will try to write a few lines, that will be better than no letter at all.

The week before Thanksgiving on Thursday Mr. and Mrs. Noble, Mrs. Knight, and Aunt Azubah were here to dinner. It was one of the pleasantest days we have had for a long time. Thomas and Mattie spent thanksgiving with us.

Solomon got home the Friday before thanksgiving, but Mrs. Allen wanted them to come up there and spend the day, and as they had not been there to Thanksgiving for three years, they felt as if they ought to go.

Father received your letter this morning with draft enclosed.

You did not have a very large company to Thanksgiving did you? We had the first snow of the season Wednesday morning, but it very soon turned to rain, and by Wednesday night it was a pouring rain storm, which continued all night with a high wind, and did not abate till noon of Thursday when it cleared off mild and pleasant.

There was a great fire in Boston Thanksgiving day. The buildings totally destroyed number twenty, and the firms burnt our nearly one hundred. Total loss estimated 5,000,000. The fire was between Summer St. and Harrison Ave. It came quite near Solomon's place, but not very near Thomas. Thomas went over in the forenoon, but it was roped off so, that he couldn't get anywhere near the fire. The greatest fire since 1872. You remember that.

The first of the week, there was a very large and destructive fire in Lynn. Even larger than the Boston fire.

Annie took dinner to Thomas yesterday, and in the afternoon she and Mrs. Tenney went over to Kings Chapel, and heard Old Dr. Peabody. The chair that the Knights gave us came the day before thanksgiving. It is quite a large rocking chair with a wooden seat cushioned with plush, and a cushion of the same on the back for the shoulders.

It is a very pretty chair. I did not think to write so much. It is just half past three, and that means almost night now. Shall hope to hear from you often.

With love to you and Cora.

Mother

Faneuil Hall Boston Mass 1910

Somerville Jan. 15, 1890
Wednesday P. M.

My dear Son and Daughter

I believe that Emily wrote to Cora last week, and as no one has written this week, I will write a few lines to-day. Your letter was duly received, and I was glad to hear that you were well. Did you like the afghan? If you didn't have another, I think you will find it useful.

I knit one for Solomon and Josie last Christmas like yours, only their's were brighter colors. I want to make one for Mary now, if I can muster courage enough. We are having queer weather for winter. We have had only two or three cold spells, and then I think the thermometer didn't go lower than ten or twelve. The grass is still quite green, but not quite as fresh as a week or two ago. Have you had an epidemic out West, that they call influenza? I you haven't, I hope you will not.

It commenced in Europe, and now it prevails to a large extent all over the Eastern and Southern states, though in a milder form. It is thought to result from unusually warm weather.

Josie has been quite sick, and the rest of the family had a touch of it, but the rest of our family have so far escaped. Friday and Saturday were cold and winterish enough, but Sunday was warm, with thermometer almost sixty. Yesterday was beautiful, and clear all day. To-day, it is a rain storm.

You had a letter from Thomas announcing the birth of a little son. It is a nice baby with dark hair and eyes, though I suppose one can't be sure of the color of the eyes yet.

Thomas and Mattie are just as pleased as they can be.

Mattie is getting along nicely. Thomas comes here to sleep now, as all their rooms are occupied.

Mrs. Tenney is staying there this winter, and they have a girl.

Father goes to the house every day except Saturdays, but he doesn't go till after dinner, and gets home again about four.

Hope this will find you both well. shall expect to hear from you again soon. as ever, your loving mother.

A. G. Davis

P. S. Thomas received your letter in answer to his, day before yesterday.

Thomas Lombard Davis

Somerville, Apr. 27, 1890

My dear son

What can be the reason that we have had no letter from you, for so long a time.

I am afraid you have forgotten us.

I do not owe you any letter, but I do not like this long silence. It is seems strange not to hear anything from you in so long time, not since the middle of March I think.

We are all very well. Solomon has been at home three weeks, and is expecting to go away again to-morrow morning. His health is much better this spring than it was last. We have been having a long spell of warm, dry weather, no rain for a fortnight, but it is a cold Easterly rain storm to-day.

I wanted to go up to Solomon's this afternoon, if it had been good weather. I haven't been there since just before Thanksgiving.

Solomon and Josie called in here, after S. School to-day. They called to Thomas' too. Thomas seems quite well again now, but he had a real sick time with the rheumatism a few weeks ago. He had is in his knees, and elbows first, and got better of that, when he was taken with inflamatory rheumatism in his hands, that was very painful for a while, and he looked so pale and sick that I was quite anxious about him. But he seems to have quite recovered from it now. The baby continues to thrive. Weighed 15-1/2 pounds a week ago, a model baby, very good natured, goes to bed awake, so you see he is quite a wonderful baby, at least, in the estimation of his papa and mamma. I suppose you have received his picture that Thomas sent ere this, that will give you some idea of how he looks, though the picture is not as pretty as he is. It is getting toward summer now, and we are beginning to think about the promised visit from you and Cora.

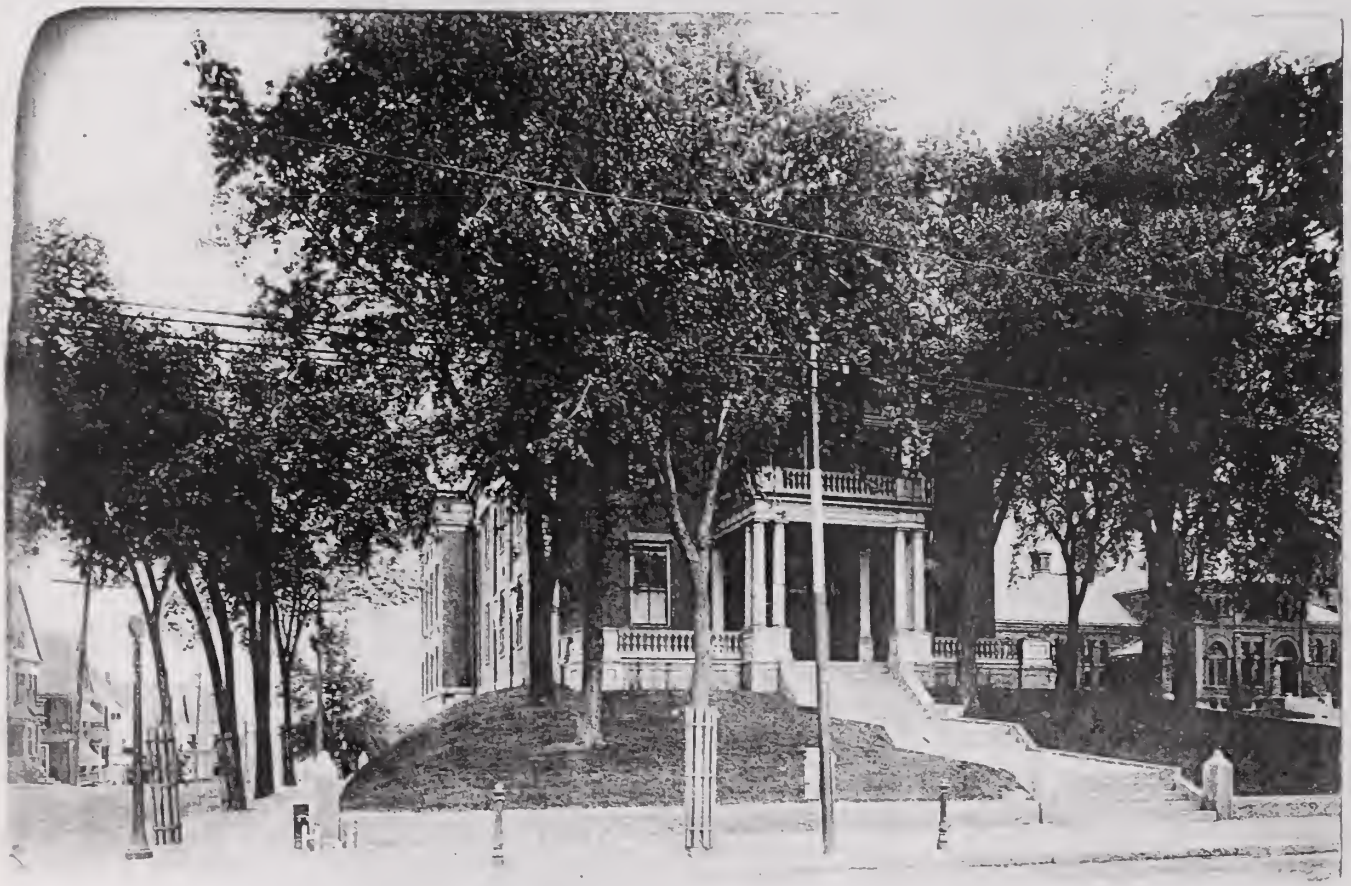
We shall reckon a good deal upon your coming. Have you decided yet when you can leave home best?

Haven't you been to Dover this Spring? Mary hasn't written any thing about your having been there.

Shall hope to get a letter from you before this, but if it is possible that such a thing <u>could</u> happen, don't give sleep to your eyes, nor slumber to your eyelids, till you have sent off a letter "Post-Haste."

To you and Cora, with love from

Mother



Somerville Dec 29, 1890

My dear son

I will write a few lines just to let you know that I have not forgotten you. It has been a long time I know, since I have written to you.

Mary's children have written quite often, and I have had their letters to answer, and I think father has written you quite often, so I have been putting it off. I think it has been a good while now, since we have received any letter from you.

I am very busy all the time, and the days are so short. I have a good deal of housework to do now, as Sarah is still away, and we do not get much help from Emily.

Solomon and his family were here to Christmas, but Mattie has been sick, and was not well enough to go out Christmas day, so that Thomas' folks couldn't come. But Thomas came over twice with Tenney durring *(sic)* the day. He is getting to be a pretty knowing little fellow, and likes to come here. Father goes for him three or four times every week, and he will stay the greater part of the day perfectly contented. I don't know hardly what father would do if it weren't for that to take up his time.

I want to hear how you spent your Christmas. I hope the weather was good so that you went to Mary's. I think it would seem pretty lonesome for you and Cora to be at home alone. We thought of you as being at Mary's. We are having a good deal of cold weather so far this winter. We had quite a bad snow storm the day after Christmas and there is quite a good deal of snow on the ground. We are all about as well as usual. We want to hear how you are getting along, and hope to have a letter soon.

Trust this finds you both well. With love from

Your Affect. Mother

A. G. Davis

Old Tufts House , Somerville MASS

Somerville Feb. 22, 1891

My dear son

I will write a few lines, it has been so long since I have written.

I don't get much time to write except Sundays, and even then I don't always have time, or feel like writing. I think father wrote you not long since.

When he wrote Annie was expecting to leave home for California about the tenth of this month, I think.

Mrs. Lombard is sick, and if she should not get better soon, I suppose they will have to give up the trip.

I think it will be quite a disappointment to Annie not to go now, after making so much preparation.

Sarah is still at Newton.

Mr. Buswell sailed for Europe again last Saturday.

It is vacation in the Art School last week and this.

Emily was not intending to go back to school again. Thomas has been here with Tenney this afternoon. He is very well now, and seems quite like himself again. He is learning to walk, but does not progress very fast. I am glad to hear that you and Cora and both so well this winter.

I wish you would write oftener.

I would like to hear from you every week.

Your loving Mother,

A. G. Davis

Betsey Lombard Collins Cook Cook
"Aunt Betsey"

Older sister of Anna G. Davis

Somerville May 17, 1891

My dear son

I will just write a few lines to congratulate you, on the birth of your little daughter. Your communication was received last Saturday afternoon, and we were much pleased to hear such good news. We were very glad to hear that Cora was so comfortable and that the baby was doing well, and also that you have a good nurse, and a good doctor. It was fortunate that you got your repairs all done on the house before the baby came.

You can imagine how much we want to see our little grandaughter *(sic)*. We have been trying to think what name you will give the little stranger. Perhaps Cora had a name all ready for her.

We hope you will keep us informed how you are getting along. We shall be anxious to hear. We are all about as usual. Tenney has had the membraneous *(sic)* croup, and was dangerously sick for several days. It was hard to realize that he was so sick, he seemed so bright and playful all the time. He has entirely recovered from it now. We all think he quite remarkable, whether he is or not.

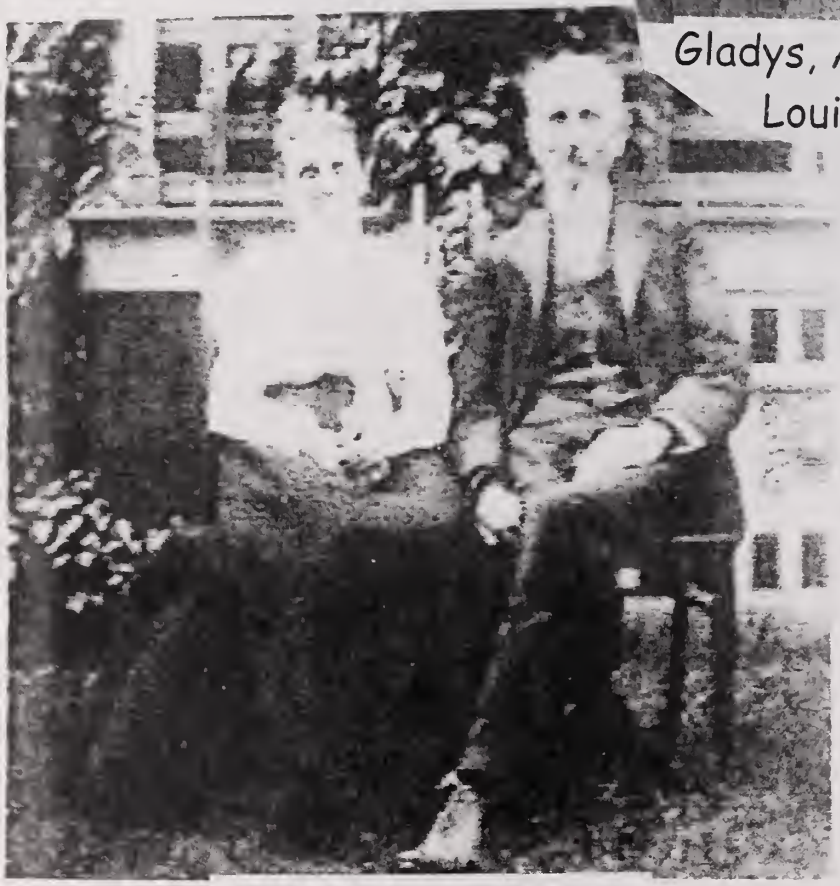
Solomon has been gone three weeks from home, and he thinks it doubtful if he gets home this week. He has had a bad cold all the time he has been away, and I am feeling quite anxious about him, though he writes that he is some better.

Aunt Betsey is up on a visit, and we are expecting her here this week.

Shall hope to have a letter before you receive this. Be sure and let us hear from you often till Cora is well. And we want to hear all about the baby too. You must give a description of her as well as you can. We want to know how she looks, and who she looks like. My dear love to Cora and to yourself likewise. Hoping that all will go well, your Affect. Mother

A. G. Davis

Gladys, Annie, Alice
Louis, Ralph



Mary & Emerson Dyar

Somerville Aug. 10th 1891

My dear son

I was intending to write you last week, but father wrote, so that I put it off one week longer. We were very glad to hear from you again. I was quite anxious about you at one time, till we heard of you through Annie.

We are glad to hear that you are all well, and getting along so nicely, and that little Eleanor is a good baby. Fourteen and a half pounds is pretty good weight for a girl baby of two months. I think Annie weighed 16 lb. when she was five months old, and we thought that was pretty good. I wish we could see the darling baby. She is now nearly three months old is she not? and will soon begin to take considerable notice of things around her. Babies at that age are thought to know their mamma from anyone else. Mary's family seem to be taking turns visiting you. Annie keeps us well informed of what is going on there. We had letters from her Monday and Saturday of last week. It will be Annie's turn next, and she writes that she will take Gladys with her. I had been thinking that Gladys ought to go with Annie, as all the other children had been. She thought she would so this week or next.

Annie thought that Mary gained flesh while she was as your house, and she thinks she begins to seem more like herself again. She writes also that they like the new girl.

Solomon and family will probably not be home for nearly two weeks yet. Solomon writes that he is well, so I hope he is better than he was when he went away.

Tenney hasn't seemed very well the last week. It may be that he is cutting more teeth. If so that accounts for it. He seems quite bright, and we hope he will soon be better.

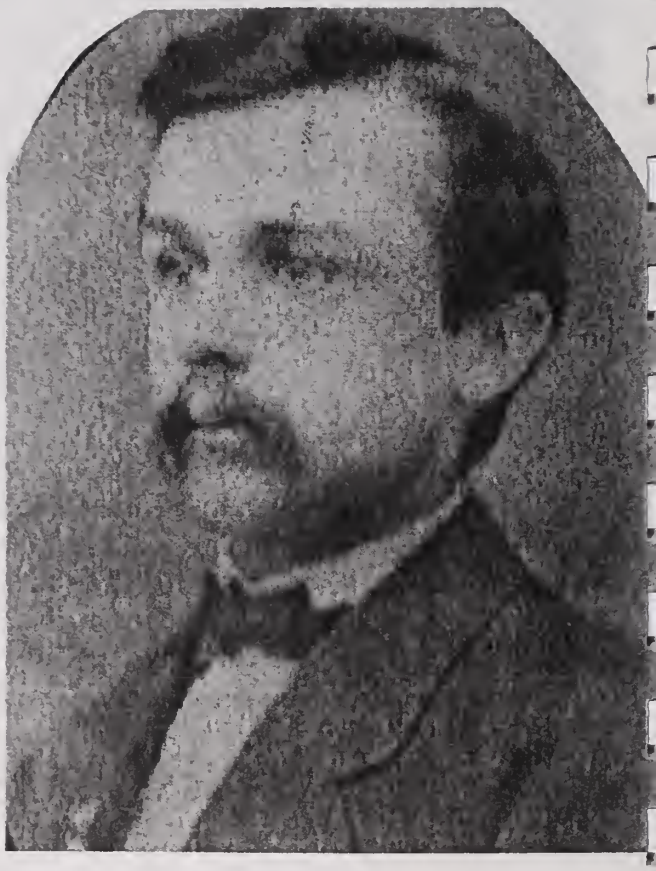
We miss Annie a good deal of course, but I was very glad that she could be there at the time she was so much needed.

I know very well that no one else could have taken her place. Has Cora got quite strong again, and has she been to ride much yet? I think Annie wrote about you getting a carriage for baby Eleanor. I wish you could have made a visit this summer, we should have been so glad to see you. I shall be pleased to receive a letter from Cora at any time. She will write more about baby than you do. Kiss the dear babe for me.

And much love to both you and Cora.

Mother

A. G. Davis



Josie & Solomon Davis

Somerville Oct. 4 1891

My dear son

I believe I am not owing you any letter, but it has been so long since I have written, that I will write a few lines to day, that you may know that you are not forgotten.

Everything moves on much as usual here at home. We are having very remarkable weather for the season. It seems to me, I never knew such summer-like weather as we had nearly all the month of September. And now in October, yesterday, and to-day, are like hot summer days, the thermometer being 80 degrees in the shade. I think it is beautiful to have such weather in the fall, it lengthens out the summer so much, and will I hope make the winter seem shorter.

We were very glad to get little Eleanor's picture. We think she must be a pretty nice looking baby. The little darling!

It makes me feel as if I wanted to get right hold of her. I wish you could have her picture taken by a real good Artist.

Sarah is at home to-day. Solomon will probably be at home again the last of this week. It will be three weeks to-morrow since he went away. he has had some hayfever *(sic)*, but was getting over it nicely Josie said. This warm weather has ripened up the fruit, and we have an abundance of pears. And one of our peach trees has borne some splendid fruit, large and luscious, not a great quantity but considerable over half a bushel. I wish every day that yours, and Mary's family could have some. Father will send some pears later, but he says these earliest pears wouldn't keep to get there. But I do so wish you could have some. I remember how you enjoyed the pears that fall you were here.

I suppose you have been enjoying the product of your garden, this fall, the frost has kept off so late. I do so wish that I could see you in your home. I don't suppose I ever shall, but I must try to be content and thankful for all my other blessings. I suppose care of baby, and household work keep Cora pretty busy, so that she hasn't much time to write letters, but I think baby's cunning ways will pay her for all her trouble. She will be growing more interesting every day, and all the time learning something new. I am very glad that you have had this little one given to you, and no doubt she will be a great comfort to you both. I want so much to see her.

Do try to write oftener Joshua. We haven't had any letter for a long time. A kiss for Eleanor, and love to both you and Cora.

Mother

Martha "Mattie" Tenney Davis

Somerville Mar. 5, 1892

My dear son

I think this letter will have to do for you both as I owe both of you letters. It has been so long since I have written much, that it seems rather hard to begin. (only one letter to Alice two weeks ago, since I was sick.)

I don't know as I have any longer an excuse for not writing, I am feeling pretty well now, but have not fully recovered my strength. I didn't think I was so very sick, but it took such hold of me, and took away my strength so, that it takes a long time to get it back again. It is twelve weeks today, since I was outdoors, but I hope to get out now, before very long. We were glad to know from Joshua's letter last week that you were well.

I think you have been fortunate to keep well all winter when it had been so sickly.

Father has written so lately, that I don't know as there is much news to tell.

Mattie and the new baby are getting along nicely. They haven't decided on any name yet. Tenney has had a bad cold, and been threatened with croup, but is well again now, and has been here to-day.

Solomon has been at home now, about two weeks, and expects to go away again to-morrow. We have had very unpleasant weather for the last two weeks, cold, cloudy, and dreary. And last week we had the worst snowstorm of the season. But the last two or three days have been sunny, though mostly cold and blustering.

The warm sun is melting the snow very fast. It has been nearly three months since I received Cora's letter, and since then have not heard anything, very particular about little Eleanor, as Joshua you know never tells us very much about her. That is, he doesn't go in to the particulars very much. She is now nearly ten months old I believe, and probably sits alone, and perhaps creeps. I expect she is very interesting and has a great many cunning little ways, and I do wish so much that we could see her. I think it must make her look quite old having so much hair. Does her hair keep dark? I hope you will get a good picture of her soon. We want very much to know how she looks now. You have neither of you ever written anything about your help, whether you have any, good, or bad. Surely you are not doing without help. We remembered that it was Joshua's birthday last Wednesday.

Hope this will find you all well, and that we shall hear from you again soon.

A kiss for darling baby Eleanor, and very much love to you both from Mother.

A. G. Davis

Eleanor Davis

Somerville Oct. 23, 1892

My dear son

Eleanor's beautiful photographs came yesterday, with which we are all very much pleased. They are just as lovely as they can be, and such a sweet sweet face. We never knew before what a pretty child she was.

It makes me feel more than ever as if I must see her. How did you intend for them to be distributed?

We think Solomon and Thomas are to have each one, and Mrs. Knight, and the two for us. At any rate I am going to claim them. We think the odd one quite as pretty as the others, and some of us think the face even prettier, and then we like the other one, so much too, the little bare arms are so beautiful. I told our folks I was going to have both of them for us or not. Josie wished me to thank you for her. She thinks the face very sweet, and said she felt as if she wanted to get right hold of her, and I have the same feeling myself.

Sarah never liked her other pictures very well, but as soon as she saw these she said, Isn't "she a darling?" She certainly is a darling. I am so glad that you have succeeded in getting such nice pictures. Mary came two weeks ago yesterday. We hoped to keep her till after Thanksgiving, but she thinks she must go back, by the middle of next month. The children are well, and seem to be having a good time. We think Mary is looking better now, than when she was here four years ago.

Solomon has been at home more than two weeks, and will not go away again for a week or more. We are all pretty well.

Father and I have some cold, but nothing serious. We are having beautiful weather this fall, and no frost yet.

Tell Cora I haven't forgotten that promised letter and expect to get it, as soon as she can get time to write. Mary said she had no girl, and I suppose she cannot have very much leisure time. But I do so want to hear about Eleanor and all her cunning little ways. Does she begin to talk any more yet? I think anyone would think from her picture, that she was more than seventeen months old. Josie said she thought she looked older.

I wish you could be here now that Mary is, so that we could have another reunion. Isn't it time for us to have another letter Joshua?

Hope this finds you all well. Kisses for Eleanor and love to both you and Cora.

Mother

Caroline "Carrie" Davis
1893

Somerville July 2, 1893

My dear son

It seemed very lonesome here as it always does after you go away, and for two or three days I didn't feel much heart for anything. But these feelings wear off after a while, if they didn't, one's life would be miserable.

We received your letter Monday morning, and were glad to hear of your safe arrival at home. We were afraid your journey would be uncomfortable from the heat. Tuesday was a very warm day, and Wednesday morning we thought we were going to have another hot day, but the wind soon came in to the East and grew cooler, so that we had a very comfortable day, and before night it was decidedly cool. Thursday and Friday a cold, Easterly, rain storm worse I think than the storm Saturday the day we went to Solomon's. The cold Easterly wind lasted for a week or more, and we are just beginning to have warm weather again. Yesterday and to-day being quite warm, but the wind is East again this afternoon.

Dear little Eleanor, how glad she must have been to see you, and her mamma home again. I wish I could have seen her then, and when you showed her the butterfly too. What did she think of the butterfly? I am glad that she liked the doll, and now she has got the taste of candy, do you think she will tease for more? We were all intending to go to the exhibition Tuesday, but Monday we received a Postal from Mr. Ingham saying that they would be with us Tuesday noon for two or three hours, so there was nothing to do, but that someone must stay at home to get dinner, and it fell to Annie's lot as it usually does. The rest of us all went, but Father came home at recess, he was so afraid that he wouldn't be at home when they came. Emily, Sarah, and I stayed till after Carrie read her piece, and we got home soon after dinner. Of course I couldn't hear any of the speaking or reading at the exhibition, but the girls thought Carrie's part of the valedictory was very fine, and I think she has had a good many compliments.

The whole thing is in the "S. Journal." so you will see it all before you get this.

They said Carrie read her piece beautifully, and she looked so pretty and attractive, and appeared so well, that it was very gratifying to me only to see her. Solomon and Josie went to New Bedford Wednesday, came to Sandwich Wednesday night, stopped there two nights and came home Friday. Thomas is to Concord again Monday to spend the fourth.

Annie is going to Concord with him tomorrow to stay a week, by special invitation from Thomas and Mattie.

We are invited to go to Solomon's again Tuesday for supper. They are going to have fireworks on the hill in the evening.

How is Cora since she got home? didn't she get pretty well tired out to the "Fair"? If Annie goes to Concord to-morrow, there will be only father, Emily, and I at home. I don't know whether Sarah will be home from Newton before the last of the week or not. I can think of nothing more to write this time. Shall hope to hear from Cora soon and all about Eleanor. Do write as often as you can Joshua.

Kisses to dear Eleanor, and love to you all, hoping this will find you all well.

Your loving Mother

A. G. Davis

Sarah E. Hemenway

Somerville Nov. 12, 1893

My dear son Joshua

It has been a long time since I have written to you.

I have been thinking I would write for a long time, but there has been so much to take up my time week days, and Sundays too, it seems so hard to get a good chance to write, or it is such a burden, or something or other to prevent.

I have not had any letters, so have not had any to answer. If I had I certainly should have written. I always try to answer all the letters I receive, if not very promptly.

Your short letters to father every month are welcomed, and we are glad to know from time to time that you are all well. But we hear but very little about Eleanor. We should be so glad to hear more about her, as we cannot see her. We expect she is very interesting now. We don't seem to know very much about any of you. Is Cora well, and have you still the same girl that you had last Spring?

I suppose Eleanor got quite attached to grandma Hendricks, she was there so long.

We have had very mild weather this month so far, and but very little frost. It spit a little snow once to-day, it is the first I have seen. Father picked a rose bud from our jacquerminot rose bush the third of November, his birthday. I think it would have bloomed if he had left it on, as it was nearly out.

Thanksgiving is close at hand, wish you would be with us. They will probably all come here, though Solomon said something about having us all there. We hear but little from Winona. Mary writes but seldom now.

Do you think you will go there to Thanksgiving? Emily is very busy working on her china. Sarah is away most of the time. Mary Kenney is here to spend the winter, so we have quite a family. Sarah Hemenway is going to be married one week from next Saturday, the second of December. All are well. should like to hear from you oftener.

With love to all, and kisses for Eleanor, am as ever your loving

Mother A. G. Davis

Annie Dyar

Emerson Dyar

Somerville Apr. 29, 1894

Dear Cora

Yours and Joshua's letters were both received at nearly the same time, so that I had quite a feast of good things. It seems nice to hear from you often.

We have not lost our March weather it did not come in its season. Nearly all of April has seemed like March, though the last week has been quite warm and pleasant. Things have come forward very fast the last week. The peach and pear blossoms are out, and it is looking quite pretty about here now.

I enjoy all you say about Eleanor so much. I should think it was quite unusual for a child of her age to take so much interest in gardening and only to think of her making selections from catalogues, such a child as that, less than three years old. I guess she is going to make a botanist some day.

I suppose gathering sap is pretty good fun for children, and they always enjoy it. She will be delighted if you can get a brood of little chickens for her, and it will giver her a good deal of enjoyment. A kitten is a nice pet when it is little, and then her dolls are an unfailing source of amusement for her. Tell her grandma thinks she is a real little busybody and loves her dearly though she has never seen her, but wants to so very much. We are hoping that she will come with papa and mama next summer to see us. I think it is a nice way to rest children, to hold them and read to them. Ghildren are almost always restless at night. I suppose they get tired.

You did have a real sick time with your cold, didn't you? It must have been very distressing to have such a pain in the eyes. Evidently it was a kind of grip, it takes a good many forms.

We had a letter from Mary not quite two weeks ago. She wrote you and Eleanor had been there but Joshua didn't come. Was it decided that they were to have the house when you were there? I suppose they have not moved in before this. They must be pleased to have such a nice house of their own. Were their plans all matured for coming East when you were there? Unless they change their plans they will not be in Somerville till the very last of June, and then only Emerson and Annie. I don't suppose we shall be able to prevail on Emerson to stay more than a week, so there will be no one here but Annie (and she will be to Solomons some part of the time.) Emerson is going to leave the boys in Maine. So that mustn't make any difference about you and Joshua coming.

I hope you and Eleanor will come with Joshua this summer without fail. I think it is quite time that we should see our little granddaughter. Has Joshua fixed upon any time yet when he can best come? How are you getting along with your house cleaning? We are just in the midst of it. You will have to get a girl this Spring, will you not?

Solomon got home Thursday night. They are all well, as are the rest of us. Carrie is home to-day, but goes back to-morrow. Hoping that you are all well, and that we shall hear from you again soon, I will close with kisses for dear Eleanor and love to you all.

from Mother

A. G. Davis

Aside from the usual chit-chat, this letter seems to be banal. However, carefully couched words refer to a tragedy suffered by Joshua and Cora in 1894. A baby was stillborn or died shortly after birth.

In the 1950's a book entitled The Doctors Mayo was published. Charles and Will Mayo of Rochester, Minnesota were horse and buggy doctors at the beginning of their careers. Among their cases was "the banker's wife in Plainview" whom one of the Mayos attended during a troublesome childbirth. The distance from Rochester to Plainview would not have been remarkable.

Anna empathized with her son..."there are almost always such times in everybody's life"...and may well have suffered the same loss. She and Joshua, Sr. were married almost four years before "Annie" was born.

Cora's childbearing pattern was infrequent and widely spaced. She and Joshua were married five years before Eleanor was born. Three years later she lost a baby. Three years after that Kenneth was born.

As an aside, it's worth noting that when my mother Harriett was expecting her babies (1930 - 1945), nothing less than the Mayo Clinic was good enough for Kenneth's wife's prenatal care and deliveries. The distance from Spring Valley, WI to Rochester, MN was 90 miles!! (And she made it to the hospital each time.)

S. H.

Somerville Sept. 23, 1894

My dear son

If I had not the date before me, I could hardly believe that is has been almost a month since I received your letter. Time flies so fast it is hard to keep run of it.

I was intending to write last week but Annie said she was going to write, so I put it off till another week. We were very glad to her that Cora is improving, but very sorry that there is so much uncertainty about your coming East at present. We hope however that the way will open for you to come, before the cold weather. I am afraid you have been having a rather hard time of it this summer, and will really need a vacation very much.

It would be a pleasure to us to see you all, and especially dear little Eleanor whom you know we have never seen, and I cannot begin to tell you how much we do want to see her. Since Cora has been unable to write we have not seemed to hear that you have a good girl before this, and, that things are getting easier for you. There are almost always such times in everybodys life, but if only the lives of dear ones are spared to us, we feel that we have no cause to complain.

We are all as well as usual. Annie wrote so recently there is not much new to write. Solomon returned from Bridgeport this morning.

He has had hayfever (and does not look very well) but he says it does not trouble him much now. He is going to be at home this week. Thomas went to North Conway yesterday afternoon to stay over Sunday. He cannot take any long vacation and so takes a day or two when he can. All last week was unpleasant till Friday. Since then it has been warm, and pleasant, like summer.

I wish you would write soon Joshua, and let us know how you are getting along. I do hope that Cora will be gaining faster now. It is very hard to one to be laid by when their help is needed so much. I do hope that things will brighten for you before long.

My dearest love to you all.

Your affect. Mother

A. G. Davis

Central Park, Somerville, Mass.

Somerville Jan. 13th 1895

My dear son

I received Cora's letter and was very glad to hear from her so soon again. But I will write to you to-day and to Cora next time. I was sorry that you were disappointed about going to Mary's to spend Christmas. It was a disappointment all around. Am glad that Eleanor got over the mumps so well. Have not yet heard whether Alice had them. I know that all the other children did.

We have been having mild weather since last Saturday and Sunday. No sunshine, but a good deal of fog. It rained this morning, but looks now like clearing, but is growing warmer instead of colder. Thermometer at 48. The warm weather has carried off most of the snow, and where the snow has been lying, the grass is still quite green like spring. We are all pretty well now. Solomon has had a bad cold. He took cold the Wednesday after Christmas.

It snowed first and then it rained, and the walking was fearfully bad. He got his feet wet and went with them wet all day. His asthma was very bad for a while, and I was dreadfully worried about him. He has got nicely over it now and to-morrow is going to start on his winter trip. Will stop at Bridgeport a part of the week.

Someone wrote me - I think it was Mary - that your rheumatism troubled you some. Has it troubled you ever since you had that attack last summer? I am very sorry that you have the rheumatism, but I hope it will go off with the cold weather.

What a little darling Eleanor is. It was very interesting what Cora wrote about her. The dear child. I do want to see her more than I can tell. It seems to me she is very mature, for a child not yet four years old.

We were very much disappointed Joshua that you were not able to come to see us last fall. But we are hoping now that you will come early next summer and that Cora and Eleanor will come with you. I think Eleanor is old enough now to enjoy it, and I do hope nothing will happen to prevent you all from coming. I am anticipating it with much pleasure.

I think father's eyesight is just about the same, it don't seem to me that it grows any worse. I don't know when he will make up his mind to have an operation performed.

I shall be glad to hear from you soon. Kiss dear Eleanor for me.

Hope this finds you all well.

Very much love to you all. Your loving mother

A. G. Davis

BROADWAY PARK, SOMERVILLE, MASS.

Somerville May 12, 1895

My dear son

I have delayed writing for a long time, putting it off from one week to another, till I do not know how long it has been since I have written. I would have written before, but Annie has written quite frequently.

I hoped, to have a letter from Cora before this. I am sorry that she is not feeling stronger this Spring. I think one often feels a loss of strength at this season of the year, when the hot weather first comes. I am almost sure that a change will do her good, and hope that her visit East this summer will greatly benefit her. We are confidently expecting that you will all come sometime in June. I have been reckoning upon it and thinking about ever since last fall when you wrote that you should try to come early in the summer. "We you said," so I knew that you intended to have Cora and Eleanor to come with you.

We have been counting the weeks, and soon it will be the day. We are about through with housecleaning, and expect to be all ready to receive you as early in June as you can come. I do so long to see little Eleanor, and can hardly realize that I may see her so soon. And am quite impatient for the time to come. We have been having Midsummer heat the last week, commencing Monday. Yesterday the thermometer went up as high as 92. It was the warmest day of the week.

To-day is cooler with heavy showers. The trees have been in blossom again. Everything has come forward with a rush last week, and the trees are all in foliage. I expect your place is looking very nice now. (How I do wish I could see it.) How do you manage to get your lettuce and asparagas *(sic)* so early? We had asparagas to-day for the first time. Have you a good prospect of fruit this year? We are all very happy over father's recovered sight. I do so pity anyone that is blind. Though I am poorly enough off with my deafness. I had much rather be deaf than blind.

I am glad Solomon will be home when you are here. He is having his long vacation now - was at Bridgeport the last week. Has Cora good help and how is she getting along with her Spring work? I should like to hear from her. We do not seem to hear much about Eleanor of late. Well, we must be patient and I hope very soon we may have the pleasure of seeing her. And you and Cora as well. Hope this will find you all well, and that nothing will happen to prevent your coming, when you set the time. Kisses for Eleanor, and much love to all.

Your loving mother A. G. Davis

Tenney, Robert &Philip Davis

Somerville June 2, 1895

My dear son

Your letter to father was received Friday afternoon.

I had been feeling quite impatient to get a letter from you, hoping that you would set an early day for you and Cora with Eleanor to start on your journey East. But your letter was very disappointing. We thought it was all settled that Cora and Eleanor were to come with you this summer. I think it will not make much difference about Mary's coming. We want you, Cora and Eleanor to come all the same.

Mary wrote to us that she was coming the first of July with the C. E. excursion party. She wants to visit Maine and she can go there first, so that if you come by the middle of June or even later if you cannot get away so soon, I think it will be all right. The girls can go to Solomon's and stay over night anytime when it is necessary. I cannot bear to think of the visit being delayed or put off to another time or another year. I don't believe but what Cora will feel just as well able to go South this fall, if she does come East this summer.

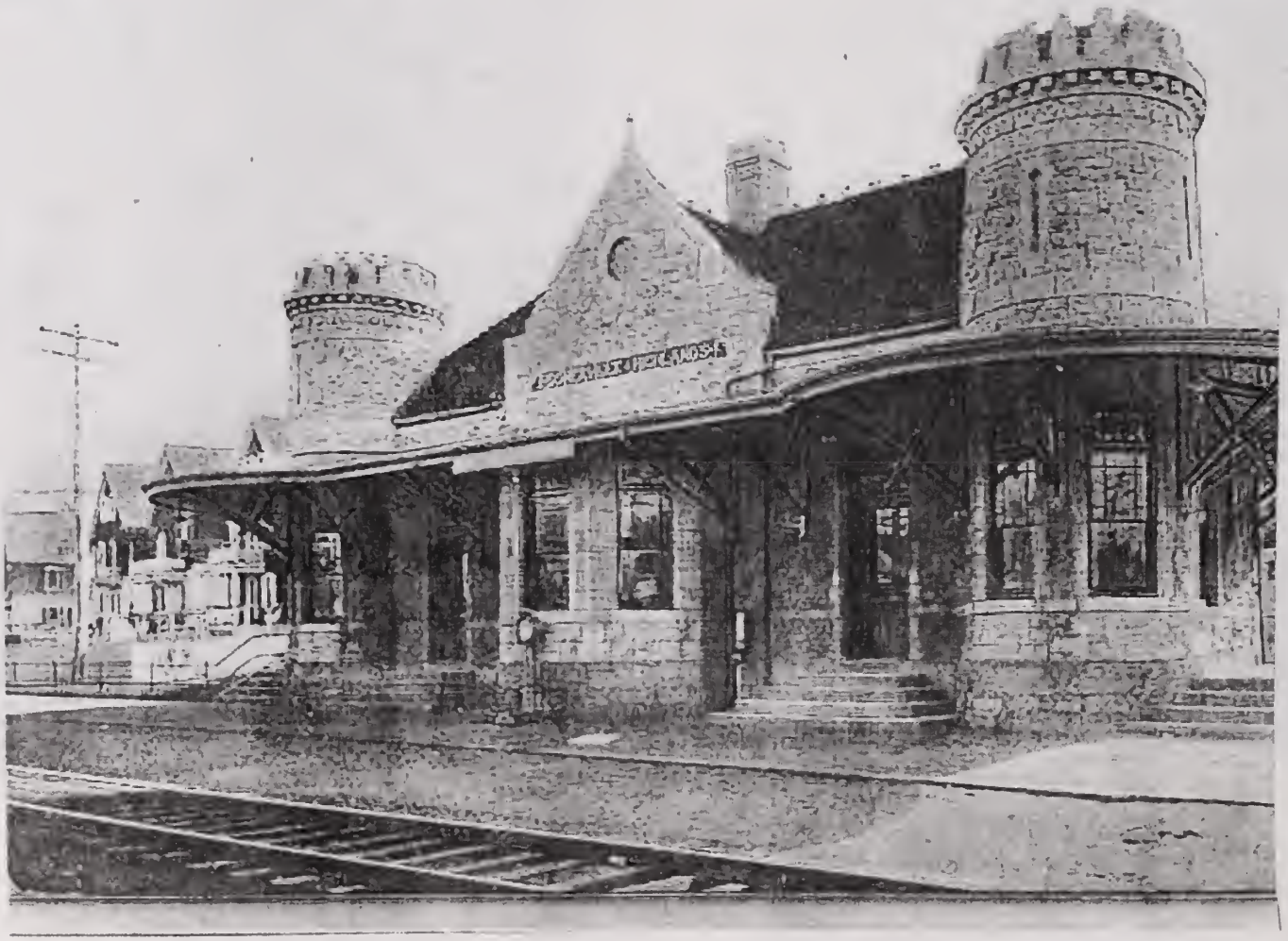
And another thing. If you decide that Cora <u>cannot</u> come this summer, you must come as early as your business will allow. You know if you put off your visit till Mary goes back, the last of August, your busy season will be coming on by that time will it not? And that certainly will not do.

We are having another hot spell following the cold one, the same as you have. To-day the thermometer is at 94, unusually warm, I think for the season.

Will you not write again <u>very</u> soon Joshua, and let us know your decision. I hope you will decide for Cora and Eleanor to come with you. You can imagine what a disappointment it will be to us if they do not. We have so longed to see that child. We thought of her birthday at the time, though I did not think of it when I was writing to you the other time. Four years old and we have not yet seen her. Kiss the dear child for me, and very much to you all. Your affect. Mother A. G. Davis

Another little boy came to Thomas' yesterday.

SOMERVILLE, MASS. SOMERVILLE HIGHLANDS STATION.



Somerville Aug. 5, 1895

My dear son

I know that father has just written, but I feel as if I wanted just to write a few lines, to let you know how glad I am you are so much better, and how disappointed we are that you are obliged to give up your visit home this summer.

If you could only feel as if you could leave your business for a while, the best thing you could do, would be to come on here, and have a change and rest. If not, the next best thing will be to take care of yourself at home, and am glad to see from your letter to father that you are doing so.

We seem to be disappointed in our expectations this summer.

We thought to have a much longer visit from Mary, and we were allotting so much upon Cora and Eleanor coming. And then when we thought you were within a few hours of coming, to know that you had not come.

And we were disappointed about your coming last year, and it has been so long since we have seen you. We shall be anxious to hear you are getting along.

I wish Cora would write. We want to hear more about dear little Eleanor. We haven't heard much about her for a long time. Kiss the dear child for grandma.

Very much love to all.

Mother

A. G. Davis

Thomas L. Davis Home
50 Mt. Vernon St.
Somerville, MA

Somerville Sept. 8th, 1895

My dear son

Your letter to father was the last received, and we were all so glad to know that you were feeling so well again, though it may be some time before you feel as strong again, as you did before you were sick.

I wish you could come on this fall and make a short visit, if no more, but I am afraid it is useless to say anything about it.

Solomon and family returned from the Cape last Thursday. He is suffering from hayfever and Asthma I am sorry to say. I thought he was going to spend all the month of August in Truro, and hoped that he might be much benefitted by it, but altogether he was there only a little over two weeks.

All are well to Thomas'. The baby bids fair to as smart and good looking as the other boys. Thomas has a good deal of care this summer, with his house building, his business and family cares. But he seems to get along with it pretty well. he says he doesn't let little things trouble him so much as he used to. And he doesn't have any vacation only as he takes a day or so once in a while.

I suppose Cora will be going South soon with her father will she not? And little Eleanor how are you going to get along without her so long? It is going to leave you rather lonely, but then your business and your work about your place will keep you very busy, so that you will not have much time to feel lonesome except at night. I hope you can sleep well for that is a great blessing, and especially there is one thing you must not forget to do, and this is to go to ride every day that you possibly can. You need the vacation.

About my car riding. I am very careful, and I feel just as safe alone as if I had anyone with me. I have used myself to go alone. I couldn't go very often if I had to have some one go with me every time.

I am glad to hear that Cora is feeling some better, and hope she will come home from her Southern trip very much improved in health.

Do write again soon, it seems so good to get letters from you often. Be sure and take care of your health if you have to let business go.

I want to see you more than I can tell. I shall think of you every day when you are alone. Kiss dear Eleanor for grandma. Was she pleased to get a letter from grandpa? Hoping this will find you all well I will close with very much love to all.

Your affectionate mother

A. G. Davis

Somerville Mar. 23, 1896

My dear son

This is the first time in six months that I have taken pen in hand to write. I have been wanting to write to you for a long time, but have been waiting till I should feel a little stronger. I was sick at the time that your letter came with such good news as made my heart glad.

It seems as if I could hardly realize it, and I have read your letter over many times to convince myself that it can be true.

There are many questions I should like to ask, but you will probably make your plans known to us at such time as you see fit, and when you have them all arranged. I would like very much to know how you are progressing in your plans, and if you are intending to locate in Massachusetts. I do hope you will get very near us, and that you will get away from Minnesota before another winter. I expect your cold winters are very trying to Cora. Have you been troubled with rheumatism this winter? I think you have not written anything about it. I dread winters more and more and this has been a very long and trying winter to me, I can assure you. I took cold first, the last of September and had grip in mild form. Did not take my bed at all with it, and got pretty well over it as I thought in about a month, and went out two or three times. But I must have taken cold somehow, or overdone and had a relapse. I was very very weak and faint mornings, but would feel better in the afternoon. After being sick two months, I had to take my bed, and it was two months more before I got down stairs again. Have been gaining gradually since, but have not got my usual strength as yet, and hope I shall when it comes warm and pleasant so I can get out-doors.

My head had troubled me a great deal since I have been sick, neuralgia the Dr. says it is, and such headache, dizziness, and whirling in my head as I have had. For about six weeks I could read scarcely at all, and the time seemed very tedious. And all caused by the grip. My head is a great deal better now, but not well yet.

I haven't seen the inside of Thomas's new house yet, and shall not be able to till the weather gets better. We have been having real winter weather this month. But enough about myself for the present.

I was much pleased with Eleanor's picture that you sent me at Christmas. I think it is a very pretty picture and I have a very great longing to see her. We have not seemed to hear much about the dear child for a long time. I intended and wished very much to send her something for Christmas, but Emily had her exhibition about that time, and the girls were very busy, and I was sick in bed. I have made out at last to get a book for her, but it is not quite such a book as I should have liked to send her. I wish there was more of it, more stories and more pictures, but suppose it will have to do this time. I hope she will like it. How is it going to be Joshua about getting a visit from you all this summer? I do hope we shall not get cheated out of that again unless you are going to get ready to move in the fall. I do so long to see you it seems sometimes as I would not wait. I wish Cora would write. We don't hear from you often enough. My dear love to you all, and kisses for sweet little Eleanor.

Yours. Mother

A. G. Davis

Eleanor Davis

Somerville Dec. 22, 1896

My dear son

I feel guilty for not writing to you before this, but feel as if I could not let Christmas pass without writing you a few lines. I have thought of writing many times, but my excuse is that I have not been feeling very well, and hardly able to write. I took cold about two months ago, and for a month had quite a bad cough. After my cough began to improve I was seemingly very bilious, and was troubled with indigestion, but hope now that I am on the mending hand.

Solomon's and Thomas' folks are all very well now. Solomon is feeling and looking better, than he has for a long time. Solomon was in here Sunday morning. He said that he had made some new arrangements in the business, and that he had written to you. So we hope to hear from you soon, and that the result will be favorable.

We expect they will all come here to spend Christmas, so you can think of us all together Christmas day. I wish it was so that you and your family could be with us. Wouldn't Eleanor enjoy it? Do you expect to spend Christmas at home this year? We sent off a small package yesterday to Plainview. It isn't very much, but we hope you will get it all right.

This is the first letter I have written for a long long time so will not try to write any more this time, but close with wishing you all, a very pleasant "Christmas" and a happy "New Year."

With lots of love to all, and kisses for dear Eleanor, I am as ever

Your loving mother

A. G. Davis

Nathaniel Jordan Knight Davis

Somerville March 27, 1897

My dear son

I will try to write a few lines to-day it has been so long since I have written. You must not think that we forget you, there is no danger of that.

We feel very impatient for you to get started on your way West. I do hope it will not take so long to get ready as you think it will. Solomon has got moved and settled in N. Haven, and they seem to be much pleased with their house and everything there. I hope you will be as fortunate as they have been in getting a nice house in the right location. Josie thinks it is going to be pretty there when the trees leave out and the grass grows.

Carrie and Helen are having a vacation now. They went down to N. Haven yesterday afternoon for the first time. They make their home with us now, and will be back here again this week to have some dressmaking done. We shall hear all about their new home when they come back. It makes us feel pretty lonesome to have Solomon's family move away from Somerville, but we know it is the best thing he can do, so we put self aside and try to be reconciled to it.

I would wish that you coming nearer to us to make your home, but I know that everything is for the best just as it is. And then after all you are going to be so near only about four hours distance, and I feel as if I ought not to complain when it is so much better than to have you way out in Minnesota. I think it is going to be so pleasant for you and Solomon to be associated in business and to have your homes so near each other. I think Cora will like when she comes to live there, and Josie and the girls will be pleasant companions for her. N. Haven is considered a very pleasant city and it must be very pleasant there in the summer.

We are all pretty well now, here, and to Thomas'. I am not feeling very strong but hope to feel better when I can get out.

The girls saw Levi this noon to Church and he told them that Nathaniel was very sick, and that they were going to have a consultation this afternoon and have a doctor from Boston. He had a cold some weeks ago and I thought he had got well, until to-day. He is very nervous now and cannot sleep. He has been having Dr. Taylor.

I am longing to see you all and especially our dear little granddaughter Eleanor. Shall expect a long visit from you before you settle down in your new home. Hope this will find you all well. No more this time. It has been hard work to write for I couldn't find any good pen. A great deal of love to all.

Your loving mother

A. G. Davis

Kenneth Davis

Somerville Mar. 27, 1898

My dear son

We received your letter yesterday with baby's photograph and are very much pleased with them. What a beautiful boy he is.

We all admire the pictures very much. How smart and intelligent he looks as if he had already commenced the battle of life. The darling baby! I wish you could decide on some nice name for him. Almost a year old and not named yet!

We have heard by the way that you were calling him Earl. That would be nice I think if you like it. E. H. Davis, those are good initials and sound well. You must decide upon a name soon, or I am afraid he will be called, "The boy without a name." I wish so much that we could see him. I imagine he is one of those wide-awake interesting little fellows that want to see into everything and is trying his best to do so.

I expect Cora has her hands full with the care of him. Josie wrote us that Eleanor was going to a private school, and that she liked her school very much. Sarah says she has a little farther to go.

I am afraid we are destined to a still further disappointment in your visit to us. Solomon said when he was here that April was a very busy month with them, so we have given up all thoughts of seeing you then. But we hope the way will open for you to come before spring is over. However it may be you must try to come as soon as you can.

We hope it will be so that Eleanor can come with you when you come.

The picture of the baby we have chosen for ours, is the one with the pretty little hand in sight. Father was in to Mrs. Knight's yesterday. He said she had one of those pictures that you sent her.

We are all well, both at home, and at Thomas'.

Are pleased to hear that your business prospects are good.

I do hope that we shall not have a war.

Much love to all, with kisses for the dear Children.

Your loving mother,

A. G. Davis

PICTURESQUE CAPE COD, MASS.
7
HOWARD

Somerville Aug 6. 1898

My Dear little granddaughter Eleanor

I was much pleased to get such a nice little letter from you. I think you bid fair to be quite a famous letter-writer in time.

We were very glad to hear that your cough was so much better and hope you will not have a return of it again. How is that dear little brother of yours? Isn't is about time for his whooping cough to take a turn? I do hope you are both very much better by this time. I do not think there would be any danger of you giving the whooping cough to any one now.

I am glad you have got one little playmate to be company for you. I expect you are enjoying this out-door life very much and walking in the water and playing in the sand is something quite new to you, is it not? I think where you go to play down by the shore is the very same place where I and my playmates used to go to play when we were little girls.

I think I know too just what hill you went up on to see off on the Bay. The Bay was in plain sight from where I used to live when I was a child.

You do not say whether you like Truro or not, but I believe you do. And this out-door life in the good pure air will I hope make you strong and well again And your mamma and little brother too will I hope get a good deal of good from it.

Tenney and Robert have not come home yet. It will make two weeks Wednesday since they went from home. We hope, and expect that you will all stop at Somerville on your way home from the Cape, and make us a visit. We shall be very much disappointed if you do not.

Your loving Grandmother

A. G. Davis

Ballston Beach, Truro, Mass.

Somerville July 17th, 1898

My dear son

I think of you and Cora down there on the Cape with those dear Children suffering from the whooping cough, and my sympathies go out to you in your care and anxiety for them.

We have been anxious to hear from you. Once we heard through Josie, she wrote that she heard from you soon after your arrival there and that the children were about the same as when you left home.

Thomas was in last evening, said he had a letter from you the day before, and that you hoped the baby wasn't going to have the cough very hard. Dear little fellow! I do hope he will not. Poor Eleanor: She seems to have so much to contend with since coming to this part of the world, that I am afraid that she will not be very much in love with it. And Cora too. I hope she will not get entirely discouraged.

It will be a great gain if they can only get well through with whooping cough and measles. I hope Cora will be benefitted by the change as well as the children, and as long as you can be there, to help take care of them, I hope she may be able to get some rest.

We looked for you here some the last of the week, but hardly thought you would leave Cora alone unless the children were better. If Cora thinks she will not be contented to stay there after you come away, I hope you will all come here and stay a while. We will try to make things as comfortable for you as we can. We want them to stop here on their way home anyway, whether their stay at Truro be longer or shorter.

We do not feel as if we could have them go back home again without seeing them.

We expect Emerson to-morrow. I am afraid he is not any much better. He is going to see some Dr. in Boston, some specialist I think. It depends upon what the doctor says about his going home soon. Mary thinks he better go somewhere on the sea Coast and stay through the month of August.

If you should return without Cora and the children will you come and make that long promised visit.

All the same we want you to stop here on your way home later with your family. Write soon please we want to hear how you like it there, and how you are getting along, and all about you. Much love to all, and kisses for the dear children.

Your loving Mother

A. G. Davis

Anna G. Davis's
80th birthday party

Joshua Davis, Sr., Anna Davis
Aunt Azubah, Mrs. Knight (in white cap)

Somerville Oct. 1898 *(E. D.)*

My dear Eleanor

I was much pleased to be remembered by you on my birthday and wish that you could have been here with us on that day. Your Auntie's gave me a birthday party, and it was the first birthday party I ever had.

I suppose now you would like to know who I had to my party. Well I will tell you. Not a very large party in number, but in years a good many. Mrs. Knight whose years number ninety, Aunt Azubah eighty seven, and grandpa eight four. Then Annie Knight came with her mother, and Lizzie Paine came in the evening and Uncle Thomas and Aunt Mattie came in the evening too, and that was all.

Now I will tell you how many letters I had. From Aunt Mary and Uncle Emerson, Annie and Alice, Ralph and Gladys. From Aunt Josie and Helen, and one from you and that makes nine in all.

So you see I have got a good many letters to write if I answer them all.

Tenney and Robert came down in the morning each with a bunch of eighty small sunflowers, that grew in their garden, and they looked very pretty.

I am glad you are able to go to school. Is it the same school you went to last fall? It seems to me you are getting along pretty fast to be in the second Reader. I suppose you study arithmetic as well as Geography, do you not? We expect you are going to make a smart little scholar.

And now that baby? What a dear little fellow he is, and how smart he is getting to be. Your papa wrote that he had a way of coming down stairs, faster than he went up. I should like much to know how he does it. And he likes to go outdoors too.

It is too bad the cold weather is coming so that he cannot go out as much as he wants to.

I cannot tell you how much I want to see both you and him. I hope it will be so that you can come with your papa and make us a visit sometime this fall or winter.

Love to papa and mama and all, and kisses for you and your dear little brother.

Yours with love

Grandma Davis

Kenneth Davis
1899

Somerville Feb. 20th, 1899

My dear Eleanor

I think it was very kind and thoughtful of you to write me such a nice little letter so soon after Christmas, and I know I ought to have answered it long before this; but the days have seemed so short, and there has been so many things to take up my time, that I have not written any letters since answering those received on my birthday. I am trying to make up for it now, and yours will be among the first to be answered.

What a merry merry Christmas you must have had, and what a lot of nice pretty things Santa Claus brought you. Did you write him a letter, telling him what you wanted? Well, you got almost everything you wished for, didn't you? I think the dolls house about the nicest thing you could have and I would like very much to see it. How much you must enjoy having it to play with. The little dolls were a present from your Aunties. Aunt Emily dressed them.

I thought they were about the prettiest, cunningest, little things I ever saw, and I knew they would please you. I gave you the bureau and kitchen table to help furnish your house.

Baby had what all boys usually delight in, something to make a noise. A horn and a drum. He also is very fond of books is he not? Does he like to get your books as much as ever now he has books of his own? What a darling little fellow he is, always so good, he must be a little sunbeam in the house.

Aunt Josie writes a good deal about you and baby too, and I do want to see you both so very much.

I am glad you have been so well this winter, and able to go to school.

Aunt Josie says it is a very good school where you go, and you like it very much.

I wish you could come and visit us oftener. Aunt Josie said you wished you could come to Somerville with her when she came. I hope you and your papa will be able to come sometime before summer and make us a visit.

I will close now with kisses for you and baby, and love to all.

Your loving Grandmother

A. G. Davis

Eleanor Davis

Somerville Aug. 13, 1899

My dear son

I want to thank you for your kindness and promptness in writing and letting us know all that was most interesting to us. We received your letter from Chicago Saturday morning and the one from Winona in the afternoon.

We were glad to know that the children stood the journey so well, and that you all got along quite comfortably considering the season. When the time came for your arrival, we were much relieved to think you had come to your journeys end, and trusted that you had arrived safely and were again free from the discomforts of travel. If you had waited till this last week, you would have had a much cooler time for your journey, but not so pleasant. It was a rain storm here Thursday and Friday and did not clear off till yesterday noon.

You doubtless begin to think that it is time to receive a letter from home.

A day or two after you went away I felt as if it would be a relief to write, but if I had written then it would have been a very doleful letter, and I thought it best not to distress you with my troubles. It did seem almost as if it was more than I could bear for some days after you went away, and I often wished you were <u>all</u> back here again.

We miss the children so much and it does seem so lonesome. In imagination I often see the little figure in blue, with the bright hair, and it seems as if I couldn't have it so, that I am to see him no more, and the tears will come in spite of me. Tell Eleanor, we have no little girl to pick the nasturians *(sic)* for us every morning, and we miss her bright face, and wish so much she could be here with us now. We received another letter from you yesterday and were much pleased to hear that you had found such a nice and convenient house so near Mary. It would seem from what you say about it, that almost every thing about the house was just as you would like to have it. I should think it as very nice indeed, and think you were very fortunate to secure it, and also think it will seem nice to be in a home of your own again.

Now if you could find some business in that vicinity to suit you, you could make your home there, and it would be so pleasant for both yours, and Mary's family. We are pretty lonesome here to-day. Only Emily at home.

Mattie went to Ogunquit last Tuesday, and took Tenney and Robert with her. Thursday she sent for Annie to come down to stay a few days, and she went Friday afternoon. Mattie intended to pay all her expenses. I suppose it was through Tenney's influence that she was invited, He enjoys everything so much more to have Aunt Annie with him.

Mattie didn't intend to stay but one week, so it will not be much of an outing for Annie, but it will be a little change.

Sarah went to Sterling with Miss Wallace yesterday afternoon, to stay over Sunday. Mr. Wallace's family are spending their vacation there.

It is very warm here to-day, thermometer between eighty and ninety with a good deal of humidity which makes it more oppressive. Was Cora very tired after her journey? Should be pleased to hear from her. Hope this will find all well. Lots of kisses for the children and much love to all from Mother.

A. G. Davis

I am very glad to her that Mary is looking so well.

Kenneth Davis

Somerville Dec. 17, 1899

My dear Joshua and Cora,

It has been a long time since I have written to you, but Mary having been here in the meantime, there did not seem to be so much need of writing, as we both heard from each other through her, but I will try to write a few lines today, so that you may hear from us before Christmas.

Annie received your letter with the check all right, and we were very glad to hear from you and were especially pleased to hear that you were all well with such marked improvement.

Eleanor's native air has seemed to be a great benefit to her, and though she seemed pretty well last summer, she did not look at all well. The dear children! I cannot begin to tell you now much I want to see them. Dear little Kenneth! I feel as if we were losing so much to have him so far away, where we cannot see him now at the most interesting age. O! if I could only see him running around and hear him talk, how glad I should be. I want you to write more about him, and about his cunning sayings, and doings. Mary wrote a few lines about his being there Thanksgiving day, in his white dress with his hair curled, and how handsome he looked. I can imagine just how sweet and pretty he did look. She said he had grown so that his mama thought his dress was getting short for him. I thought it was quite long for him last summer. I am glad that you are going to Mary's to spend Christmas. That is just as it should be, and all right. You ought not entertain all of Mary's family at your house, and I am sure you ought to spend the day together.

I wish so much you could all be here to spend the day with us. Thomas' family are coming here. You know we all went there Thanksgiving day. Solomon's family will be the isolated one, and I think they may feel rather lonely.

We did enjoy Mary's visit so much and should have been so glad if you could have been here too.

Solomon was here the night that Mary came, and if you could only have been here we should have had the great, and rare pleasure of seeing all of our seven children together once more, but it was not so to be, and probably never will. Solomon went home the next morning (Saturday). But Mary told you all about that I suppose.

Father had a very nice letter from Eleanor sometime ago. I was surprised to see the improvement she has made in writing. Christmas will be a joyful occasion in Mary's family, to have all their family at home again. I hope and expect that you will all have a merry Christmas.

With much love to you all.
Affect. your Mother

A. G. Davis

Copley Square, Boston Mass.

Somerville, Mass May 12, 1902

My Dear Joshua and Cora,

We were so glad to receive a letter from you again Joshua, and to hear that you were all as well as usual. Father has just told me that he answered your letter soon after receiving it. And I am going to try to write to-day even if it is a few lines.

We have been very busy of late with housecleaning and though I cannot do much hard work, I have found enough to do to keep me busy. But I believe we are all through now except the cellar. Father has had his winter coal just in. March and April seem to have got reversed somehow, and we have had a very cold April and May has been cold so far.

The thermometer was 38 yesterday morning. Probably the pleasant weather in March beguiled you in having your horse home sooner that you would otherwise have done.

But then you had him on hand whenever there was a pleasant day.

The drives you have around in the country must be very enjoyable, and I hope Cora will be further benefitted by them, and it is so nice for the children. I am very sorry Joshua that your work confines you so, and gives such long hours.

I did hope when this place was offered you that it would be just what you wanted. But it will be too much of a strain for you to follow up very long. Be sure and do not wait till your health gives way before you make a change.

We heard by way of New Haven of the increase of your salary.

Do you think they would make your position any easier, rather than give you up? Any way I hope all will come right somehow.

And now a word for the dear children, that I want so much to see. I remembered Kenneth's birthday, and thought of him, and wished so much that I had a birthday present to send to him. And Eleanor's birthday too is day after tomorrow.

I wanted so much to get them each a nice book. I thought about it a good while ago, and thought I would send by the girls sometime when they were going in Town, but they always seemed to be in such a hurry when they were going I was afraid they wouldn't have time to look around, to get what I wanted.

I wish I knew of books they would like to have. I shall do my best to get some for them as soon as I can. But I should have been so glad to have had them for their birthdays. If they think of any books in particular they would like I wish you would let me know. I hope Eleanor will have a pleasant birthday. And dear Kenneth, you speak of him as being a very happy little boy, enjoying every thing. I should like to hear how Cora is getting along with her spring work. I hope she isn't making herself sick again. I hardly dare think how much I want to see you all. I wish you would both write as often as you can.

My dear love to all from Mother

Commonwealth Ave Boston Mass 1910

Somerville Mass. September 7th 1902

My dear son

I feel as I must not put off writing any longer, even if it is hard for me to write.

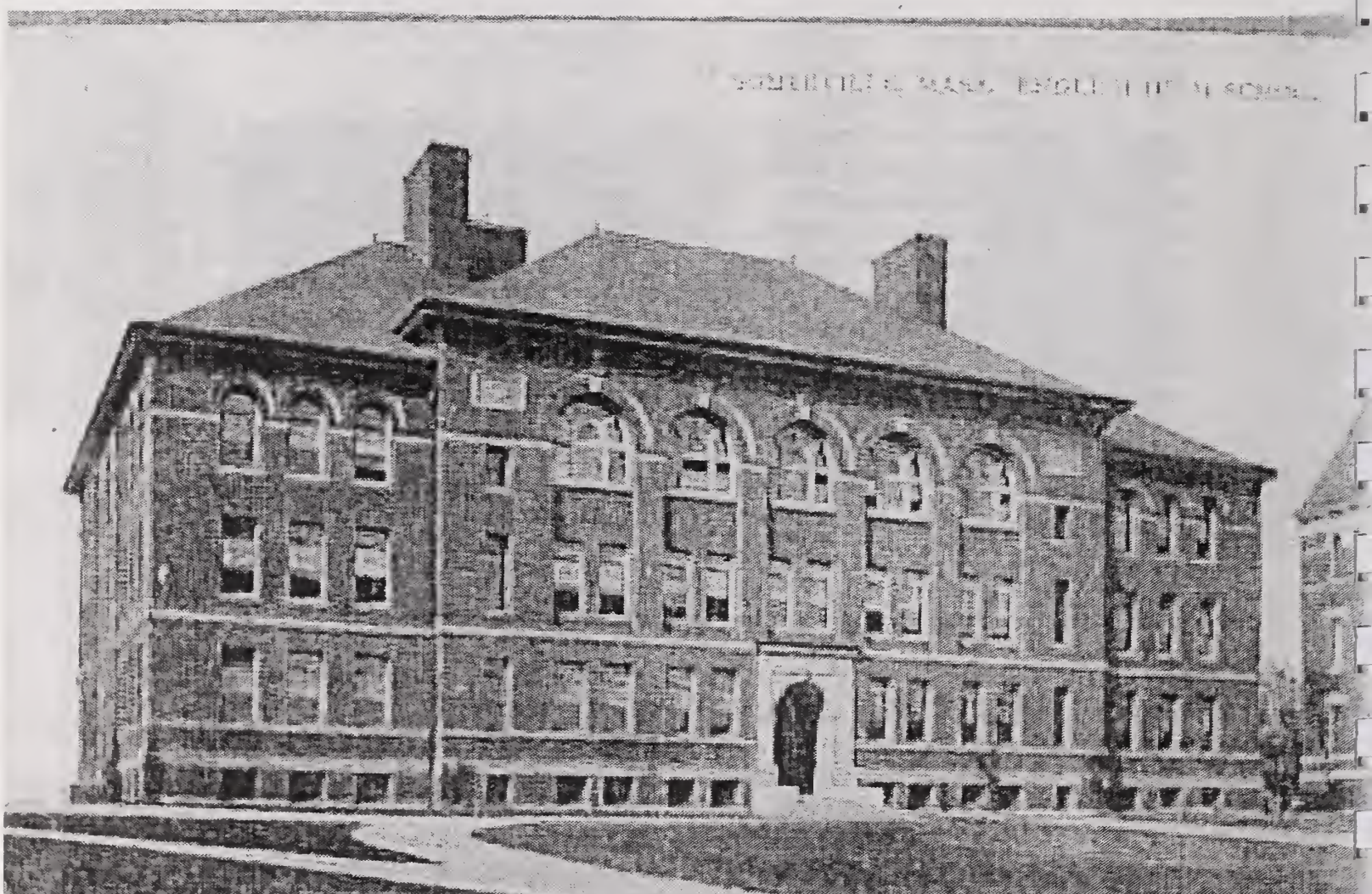
I am so sorry you had to move from Winona. It seemed as if you were nearer to us there, and then you being so near Mary. I seemed to feel more reconciled to you being so far way. But we cannot control events, and it seemed for the best that you should make the move you did. We think of you now as having your family all together again, and pretty well settled in your new home, though we have not heard anything equal to your expectations and that it will prove to be a pleasant home to all. If you could only have got such a position as the present, here in the East instead of the West, how glad I should have been. The books I sent the children I was not able to select myself after all, and I am afraid it was a disappointment to them as well as myself. I wanted to get them something very nice.

I hadn't been to Boston since last fall, though I had been wanting to go all summer. The girls were busy, and I kept putting it off. But when it was almost time for Annie and Louis to return home, I felt as if I must get the books to send by them. The weather was hot about that time, and the girls seemed very unwilling to have me go for them, and persuaded me to have Annie get them for me. Annie seemed very willing to get the books, and thought she knew what the children would like. As it happened she did not go to the city till Wednesday afternoon and they were going to start for home Thursday morning. I just had time to glance at the books, but they didn't seem to me to be what I wanted. I gave her money enough, and told her not to mind the cost, but to get something nice. It has worried me ever since I sent them, that I could have had books that I think they would like better. For Eleanor I would have liked a larger book with illustrations. For Kenneth a book full of pictures with nice stories.

The size did very well, though I should not have objected to a larger one. I do not want to blame Annie. I suppose she thought they were all right. And it can't be helped now. Perhaps you would like to hear how we are all getting along. We are all pretty well, and friends, and relatives. Thomas' family have been to Ogunquit five weeks, came home last Monday. Thomas was down there three times while they were there. Annie was in Ogunquit two weeks. Emily and Sarah have not had any vacation this summer. They may go to New Haven later. I want to thank Eleanor for the pretty Madonna book she sent. It is very nice and beautifully made. Annie thought she made it all herself. I think it is a very nice piece of work, and shall prize it highly. And now I must bring this letter to a close. There are many things I would like to say. I would like to know how Cora stood the moving and how you all are and how are the dear children that I want to see so much. And all of you that I long so to see.

Were pleased to get the letter Cora sent to Emily. I wish we could hear from you oftener. Hope this will find you all well and nicely settled.

Your loving mother A. G. Davis



Somerville Mass
January 24, 1903

My dear Eleanor

It pleased me very much to receive a letter from you again and such a nice letter, so beautifully written.

I notice a great improvement in your writing since a year ago.

I think you and Kenneth both fared pretty well for Christmas presents. You both enjoy books so much. I though you would be as well pleased with books as anything.

Your Aunties sent the baskets. Tenney has made quite a good many. When he was down to Ogunquit last summer, he used to go out where the Indians were to work and watch them when they were making their baskets.

I hope Kenneth likes the book I sent him. The girls took a good deal of pains to select one they thought he would like. Emily and Sarah did all the Christmas shopping.

Carrie and Helen have been here and made us a visit. Helen was here almost three weeks, but Carrie had to be at home the fifth of January. We had a letter from Aunt Mary written two weeks ago. She says your papa was there just for a little while the Wednesday before. He was going to bring Kenneth if the day had been good. She wrote about your papa buying him off with a half dollar, and Kenneths remarks and how homesick he was for Winona. Dear little fellow! I think he is really homesick and no mistake. How much I do wish he could come here, and get acquainted with his cousins. How much he would enjoy it.

I often think when I see them together, having a good time how delighted Kenneth would be to be with them, and I often wish he could be.

Tenney had his thirteenth birthday the seventh of this month. If all goes well he will enter the High School at the commencement of another school year. I expect you are not very far behind Tenney and that <u>you</u> too, will soon be in the High School. Do you like your school where you are now just as well as you did in Winona? And does Kenneth like to go to school as well as ever?

We are so glad to hear that your mama is so much better. It is the best news we have heard for a long time. And we hear that you are all enjoying your new home. It is very nice that you and Kenneth can have coasting right in your own yard.

I want to see you very much, and wish the way might open for you to come and make us a visit next summer.

All are usually well, and your Aunties are all just as busy as ever. Hope this finds you all well. We are expecting a letter from you papa soon. Dearest love to you dear Eleanor and to <u>all</u>,

from Grandma

Gilman Square and Medford St., Somerville, Mass.

Somerville Mass.
February 23, 1903

My dear son

I have been trying to write to you for a long time, but there always seemed to be something to prevent me doing so.

After writing to Eleanor, I thought that would do for all of you, till I could find time to write again.

We are so glad that Cora's health is so much improved. I hope she will keep the girl she has till she can find a better one.

I hope Kenneth got well over his cold without it being any worse. Just now colds seem to quite prevalent here. Thomas' boys have all had colds, and Robert was out of school for a few days.

Solomon was here last week making his usual winter visit. He came Saturday afternoon, and went home the next Friday morning. We had a hard snow storm, and the weather was very cold all the time he was here. I believe winter reigned all over the country last week. The cold and storm were unusually severe in N. Haven. A letter from Mary told us of the cold weather there. Twenty below zero one morning, and all one day 10 below. We have had a very severe winter, the coldest I think in many years. Only one month more of winter, so we cannot have much more severe cold.

Our friends and relatives are all as well as usual I think. Sarah had quite a severe attack of mumps a few weeks ago. She was real sick, and had a good deal of fever for one week, and didn't sit up at all, and it was another week before it all went away. Usually it takes four days to come, and four days to go. All the rest of us have been pretty well, only some slight colds.

If Cora can find time and feels able, I wish she would write one of her good long letters, such as she used to write telling us all about the children and every thing. It would all be so interesting to us, and Kenneth is such a darling boy, and such a cute little fellow. I know he says many things we would like to hear about.

I do hope he will be able to go to Winona before very long, and make a little visit. Perhaps the next time you go Joshua he can go with you. I shall want to hear about it. I hope Mary will be able to make you a visit before long, and the children would enjoy that.

You are probably having very cold weather too at this time. I am glad you have such a warm, comfortable house and are so well protected from the cold. It is very nice to have so much sunshine in your rooms as you have in cold weather.

Hope this will find you all well, and that we shall hear from some of you very soon. Kisses for the dear children, and dearest love to everyone.

Your Affect. Mother

A. G. Davis

(Written to J. H. the yr. he was at the Spring Valley (MN) bank - K was 6 yr. Apr. 1903 - Note by Cora Davis)

Excerpts from Letters from Joshua H Davis, Sr. to his son Joshua H. Davis, Jr.

Somerville - October 30, 1901

We are all well except mother who has been under the weather a couple of weeks. She fortunately escaped a cold all winter, but took quite a severe one a little more than two weeks ago, which prostrated her, and she has been in bed ever since. The doctor attended her some eight or ten days.

She is now improving and we hope that with good nursing she will be on her feet again in a few days.

Somerville - July 30, 1903

Mother is about as she was when you were here. Sits up about five hours each day, sleeps pretty well, and has a fair appetite. If she was at rest in her mind, I think she might soon be around with us. She is troubled about little things and fanciful things, and that gives us our greatest anxiety.

I hope I may be able to send a more cheering report the next time.

Somerville - Sept. 8, 1903

Mother has had another comfortable week. I think she is brighter than I have seen her since she was taken sick. Her mind is at rest, she talks more, and is more interested in what is going on about her, but is still weak and feeble.

Somerville - Sept. 13, 1903

Mother's condition remained the same as when I wrote you last, until yesterday morning when she had a sudden ill turn which dissipated all our pleasant hopes. It seemed, at first, to affect her brain and speech, and gave her much distress. She became easier as the day advanced, and slept most of the night. to-day she is comfortable, is conscious, knows us all and can express her wants, but remains much of the time in a semi-conscious state.

Last Friday was an unusually bright day for her. She conversed freely and said she was very peaceful, and took much interest in us all. Consequently, we are very joyful. she is now weak, takes but little nourishment, and but little notice.

Our hearts are sad. It is hard to think of parting with her. She has been good and faithful to all of us.

Sunday, the last day of January, 1904, at half past two o'clock, our dear mother passed peacefully away from earth, leaving for our comfort and joy expressions of her peace and confidence in God, and the hope of a blessed immortality.

The funeral services were held on the following Thursday, conducted by our pastor, Rev. W. Sherman Thompson, who was assigned by Rev. Robert W. Wallace, our former pastor who delivered the following beautiful tribute:

"I appreciate most sincerely the privilege accorded me today of sharing with you, my friends, the tender memories of this hour; and especially the privilege of standing beside my aged and beloved friend and his family in the presence of their dead.

"I shall ever esteem it one of the many honors done me that I was admitted to the sanctities and felicities of this Christian home. the gate of confidence and esteem seemed to be gladly and widely opened to me and, as I entered, I found myself within a circle of real friends. Between them and me there was next to nothing of reserve. And no one welcomed me more cordially than she who is so strangely absent from this home today. Her courteous greeting I shall never more meet on earth; but I shall ever miss it, and greatly miss it.

"In reality I only knew Mrs. Davis in the later years of her long life. And yet, through the confidences of friendship, I have traversed the pathway of her earlier years, and I came to know and appreciate what a life of love and service hers has been. And yet, while I was familiar with some of its chapters, beautiful and

forceful chapters, too, there were many other chapters just as beautiful and forceful into which I had not even glanced.

"There is something profoundly interesting to me in the fact that this life upon which the earthly gate has closed was in unbroken harmony for more than three score years. It was a long life-path that the two companions trod together with uninterrupted accord. And what the life that has ceased added in comfort and strength to the life that remains, no one of us can ever estimate.

"What man is beyond the lintel of his home depends so much on what lies within that lintel. The cares of the street and the office are so greatly lightened by the loves that cluster about the home and hearth. And I am sure that my aged friend would readily acknowledge the great assistance, the genuine help that came to him in his life of responsibility from the thoughtful affection of the companion who is gone. How he must miss his mate! But his Christian faith doubtless leads him to think along the lines of Frances Ridley Havergal's expectation, as she wrote:

'She waits for me! I said it in my weeping,
For nevermore she cometh o'er the sea;
She waits for me! a glorious vigil keeping
Beyond the stars; she waiteth there for me.

But now I wait awhile
Beneath the palm trees lonely,
And learn once more to smile,
For she hath gladness only.
Beside the Crystal Sea,
Until the shadows flee,
She waits for me.'

"And then I think of this life from the viewpoint of its motherliness. In God's providence, Mrs. Davis had a large family and they all reached maturity. Now no human scribe could possibly write the complete story of that maternal love. What multitudinous thousands of sacrifices were called for; and gladly made! What throngs of prayers wending their way along the path of supplication to the throne of god! No one but God could keep such a register as this.

"And then, because of an infirmity, she was shut out from much that her children would gladly have had her share, still she was the bond of the house right up to the time the bond was broken by death. How lovingly was she ministered to in the lengthened days during which the earthly tabernacle was being slowly taken down! It was enough that the faithful mother was being served.

"And then this life was so essentially and beautifully Christian. I cannot help reflecting that the forming of that religious life was in a time when people could be deeply pious. In her generation, men and women had not so much to divert and abstract their attention as we have. It seems sometimes as if our life is so full and exacting that, even if we have the inclination, we scarcely have the time to be pious. 'I wish that I had time to draw one truly Christian breath', said a friend to me recently.

"But Mrs. Davis found time to read and love God's word and to know it as few today seem to know it. It is interesting to learn that when, because of the failing of her hearing, she could not hear the reading of the scripture at the family devotions, she would have the chapter indicated to her, and would read it herself.

"And the hymns of the Church, those charming and rich depositories of Christian feeling, were a constant delight and comfort to her. I have been looking through her hymn-book and have found scores of marks by her own hand of songs she came to prize. None of the great hymns, such as 'Guide Me, O Though Great Jehovah', 'Lead, Kindly Light', 'There is a Fountain', &c remain unmarked. And these hymns and the Divine Word from which they gained their themes and inspirations conspired to build up a strong moral and spiritual fibre that could stand the strain of adverse experience.

"The hymn that was the dearest in the long solitude of the sick room was written by Mrs. Steele:

'Dear Refuge of my weary soul.
On thee, when sorrows rise,
On thee, when waves of trouble roll,
My fainting hope relies.

Thy mercy seat is open still;
Here let my soul retreat,
With humble hope attend thy will,
and wait beneath my feet.'

"And now this life of which so much more might be truthfully said comes to its earthly ending. And I am so glad that in His kindly Providence, God suffered it to end as peacefully as it did. I rejoice that my friend was spared severe and racking pain. It seemed as if she were granted what used to be known as 'dying grace.' Old thought seems to have been that God would mercifully grant to His faithful servants in their latest hours, moments of serenity and triumph, most blessed to witness as well

as to experience. And the last hours of our dear friend were singularly peaceful and comforted. Her death was like one of those sweet calm sunsets that one sees at the closing of a summer day, when day gradually declines into night.

"And yet night was only for us. With her it was the day-dawn. There was a strange silence here, but a new and sweet song yonder. And so we praise God for all He has been to our absent friend, and for all He will be to those she has left behind."

J. H. Davis, Sr.
Book of Family History

Anna Gross Lombard Davis
October 18, 1818 - January 31, 1904

SOMERVILLE

MUNICIPAL FREEDOM GIVES NATIONAL STRENGTH
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